

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

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BIRTHS.

On the 8th March, at Tottori, Japan, the wife of the Rev. SAMUEL C. BARTLETT, of a son.

On the 10th March, at Taichow, Chekiang, the wife of the Rev. EDWARD THOMPSON, Church Missionary Society, of a daughter.

On the 29th March, at 43, Praia Grande, Macao, the wife of J. B. PATERSON, of a son.

On the 19th March, at Swatow, the wife of W. MORTON ANDREW, Chinese Customs Service, of a son.

MARRIAGE.

On the 2nd April, at St. John's Cathedral, Hongkong, by the Rev. G. A. Bunbury, JAMES FRANCIS WRIGHT, of Ballinode, Co. Monaghan, Ireland, to MARY, daughter of the late WM. MENARY, of Maghera, Co. Armagh, Ireland.

DEATHS.

On the 13th March, at Tokyo, ALEXANDER CROFT SHAW, M.A. Archdeacon of South Tokyo and Chaplain of H.B.M. Legation, aged 66 years.

On the 17th March, at Wuchang, ANNIE E., the wife of P. T. DEMPSEY, of the Joyful News (Wesleyan Methodist) Mission, aged 34 years.

On the 26th March, at Shanghai, MAY MAUD MARY, youngest daughter of JAMES and ELIZABETH PRICE.

On Friday, the 28th March, at 4 p.m., at his residence, No. 30, Peel Street, after a long illness, JAMES JEE JAMES JEE OONWALLA (J. JAMES JEE), aged 67 years, cotton and yarn broker, uncle of J. N. KATRAK, broker.

Hongkong Weekly Press

HONGKONG OFFICE: 14, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVALS OF MAIL.

The English mail of the 28th February arrived, per P. & O. steamer *Bengal*, on the 28th March (28 days); and the German mail of the 4th March arrived, per N. D. L. steamer *König Albert*, on the 1st April (28 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

Shanghai declares quarantine against Bombay, Calcutta, Manila, Canton and Hongkong, as ports infected by communicable diseases.

The new regulations, for ten years to come, of the Russian Volunteer Fleet have been published. The annual subsidy from the Russian Government will be 600,000 roubles. Eighteen voyages annually to Vladivostok are provided for; the vessels calling at least nine times at Port Arthur and Shanghai outward and homeward.

We were informed on the 3rd inst. from the Colonial Secretary's Office that a telegram has been received by His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, in which it is notified that Mr. F. H. May, C.M.G., has been appointed Colonial Secretary at Hongkong, and will arrive in this Colony on the 14th proximo.

Russian journals are urging the St. Petersburg government to protest to London and Tokyo against espionage by British and Japanese on the Manchurian coast. The *Novosti* says that owing to the difficulties which England and Japan place in the way of Russia securing a base of action on the Pacific Ocean, Russia must endeavour to reach the Indian Ocean, destroying the independence of Afghanistan and Baluchistan if necessary!

Our Manila correspondent telegraphed on the 4th April:—The Pacific Mail s.s. *Peru* [which is the first boat to take the new route from Yokohama to Hongkong, instead of going via Shanghai] was royally welcomed here, despite the discouraging quarantine conditions. The local officials and merchants banqueted on board the *Peru*. Acting Governor Wright, proposing the toast of "Mercantile Energy" advocated the early removal of commercial barriers in the United States.

The vessels belonging to the Japanese Standing Squadron, except those now in foreign waters, assembled at Kuga awaiting their inspection by the special commissioner appointed by the Emperor. As soon as the special inspection is over, a fleet composed of the battleships *Hatsune* and *Yashima* and the armoured cruisers *Idzumi*, *Yakumo*, *Iwate* and *Kasagi*, will make a cruise along the coast of South China, and afterwards will engage in naval manoeuvres off the south-eastern coast of Corea.

Germany has resolved definitely to pay first the private claims out of the Chinese war indemnity. The first large amounts will be turned over to those entitled to a part in June and December, 1902; the balance in 1903. It is impossible to fix an exact date, as a number of States have not yet notified how large their claims are.

Admiral Ijuin, Vice-President of the Japanese Naval Staff Department, will be appointed to command the warships sent to England to be present at the Coronation of King Edward, according to the *Kobe Chronicle*. It is stated that his appointment to the office will be accompanied by an even more important commission. The Japanese Naval authorities find the necessity of consulting with the British Admiralty in regard to the movement of the navies of both countries in time of emergency, in compliance with the terms of a confidential Note for the joint action of the two navies, annexed to the Anglo-Japanese Convention. Admiral Ijuin, it is understood, will be commissioned to arrange all matters concerned and will make arrangements as to the supply of coal, water, and stores, and the establishment of supply-depôts to the British squadron, in order to be in readiness for operations at a moment's notice.

The Seoul correspondent of the *Asahi Shimbun* wires that the Korean Government, having instructed its representative in St. Petersburg to enquire the views of the Russian Foreign Office with regard to the removal of the telegraph poles at the Tumen River, received a reply from Mr. Li that Russia merely desired to establish connection between her lines and those of Corea, and that she was apparently disinclined to make any complaint about the removal of the posts. On the other hand, correspondence from Seoul is unanimous in declaring that M. Pavlov gave himself much concern about this question, and that he even went so far as to declare his resolve not to hold any further communication with Mr. Pak, Minister of Foreign Affairs, but to address his communications direct to the Household Department. "It remains to be seen," the *Japan Mail* says, "what objection Corea could reasonably advance to connecting the two systems of lines." But surely Corea's consent should have been asked first.

The *N. C. Daily News* understands that the Commercial Treaty negotiations between the British and Chinese Commissions are proceeding with all the celerity characteristic of Chinese negotiators. Sheng Kungpo really understood most of the proposals made to him by Sir James Mackay; but they have all to be explained over again to Commissioner Lü, whose mind seems to be an entire blank on commercial questions, and to whom everything that he personally does not understand is quite impossible. We can only repeat, says our Shanghai contemporary, that if the Tientsin Provisional Government is given up, there will be no commercial treaties for some years at least.—Amongst the subjects of negotiation between the British and Chinese Commissions on the 21st ult., according to Shanghai mandarin reports, were those relating to the prohibition of the export of rice out of the country; the coining of silver coins, one taël in weight, for circulation; and the establishment of a new Civil Mixed Court in Shanghai to take the place of the present Mixed Court.

FRANCE AND THE EAST.

(Daily Press, 2nd April.)

It is by no means easy to comprehend the part being played by France with regard to the Anglo-Japanese treaty. On the one hand France expresses her perfect sympathy with the objects of the agreement, her only desire being to preserve the autonomy of China, and protect the peace of the Far East; and as the agreement seems to promise both of these desiderata, M. DELCASSE has not only no objection, but is even prepared to express his cordial approbation. On the other hand the French Government asserts that it has led to a clearer understanding between France and Russia, to the effect that France undertakes, on the one side, to come to the assistance of Russia in case she should be attacked in Asia, while, on the other hand, Russia is to protect France in Europe should any of the other Powers commit any hostile act. Russia, while making a poor pretence of indifference, finds that she is placed in rather an awkward position, and is trying her usual game of making a diversion in the hopes that she may be able to change the venue of the dispute elsewhere than in Manchuria; but in this she is at the moment placed somewhat at a disadvantage, so that altogether the situation is by no means so clear as it may appear at first sight. In this, if ably managed, Russia has many points in her favour; she possesses the longest land frontiers of any Power in the world, her southern boundary being virtually open to attack from the Black Sea to the Sea of Japan, being practically coterminous with Turkey, Persia, Afghanistan, India, Mongolia, and China. All these but India are, it is true, Asiatic monarchies, and ruled by governments in the last stage of decrepitude, and all are in a state of chronic hostility towards their neighbours east and west, so that no possibility of inducing them to join in any common object having for its end their mutual protection is to be looked for. On the northern side of this frontier line, some seven thousand miles in length, sits Russia, a connected nation under a single head and able by means of her lines of railway, already approaching completion, to concentrate her efforts on any particular portion of the long line. It was in this manner that Russia, taking skilful advantage of the internal dissensions of her southern neighbours, has been able to annex one after the other, so that within the half century she has been able to assimilate not only the Khanates and Eastern Manchuria, but also enormous tracts lying south of Western Siberia; and having partially consolidated all these, she now thinks the time has arrived still further to push her boundaries into the comparatively fertile lands lying southward. A long land frontier, if it have advantages, has also, it is well to remember, corresponding disadvantages, the chief of which is of course that it offers undoubted advantages for an enterprising enemy to cut the long line in two, and striking right and left to prevent Russia from attacking anywhere in force; and sooner or later Russia will have to face such an attack. The line already has been carried to such a distance from Russia's supports that even at the moment it is doubtful if her frontier is not more accessible to possibly hostile forces than to Russia's defensive resources. The events of the beginning of the half century clearly showed such a condition to exist at the west of the line, where Russia exhausted all her available force in the defence of the Crimea. The beginning of the new century shows a perfectly similar condition

of affairs on the eastern end, where Russia finds herself confronted by the united forces of Great Britain and Japan, both in a far higher state of efficiency in all that makes nations stronger than Russia herself. Nor are signs wanting that the central portions of this long line, where but a few years ago Russia was indisputably unassailable, are beginning already to show ominous signs of weakness. Beginning with the extreme west, Germany, then a perfectly negligible quantity, has been exhibiting pretty evident designs that she intends to have something to say in Asiatic Turkey. Since the visit of the German Emperor to Palestine, she has succeeded in obtaining a concession for a great railway from Koniah to Bagdad, and there are signs in the air that she does not intend to leave her concession to lie fallow. Some ill-timed threats and back-door intrigues of Russia in Persia have not only awakened the somnolent energies of Great Britain, but have shown to France that her dearest friend is not to be altogether trusted, and is willing on the first opportunity to cast her promises to the wind. Foiled in both these directions, Russia, who during the lifetime of the late ABDUR RAHMAN KHAN found her blandishments in Afghanistan useless, has since the accession of his son HABIBULLA KHAN been seeking to again stir up strife in that restless kingdom. Although there is some appearance of contesting interests between him and the Dowager, widow of the late Ameer, as yet the trouble does not promise to be serious, and there are a good many signs that even in Afghanistan there exists too good a comprehension of the evils of coquetting with their good friends the Russians to permit any important defection. At all events the occurrences in North China, which in 1900 brought our Indian troops into close contact with the Russian forces sent there for the pretended purpose of introducing order into China, did not inspire those troops with any exalted notions of the civilisation or the prowess of the hitherto unconquered troops of the Tsar; yet this supposed irresistible army it was which has been the true means of Russia's advance. At all events Russia has shown herself in the face of these same Afghan tribes to be no longer the dangerous foe they had in their home imagined her to be. If these are all we have to fear, remarked more than one of the Indian contingent, we can soon account for them. With all her boastings of the perfection of her Central Asian railways, no one knows better than the Russians themselves that in a sustained war India could bring overwhelming forces into the field, but here also unfortunately lies the crux of the matter. If Russia should decide to try her hand in Afghanistan, it will be not a regular campaign but a sudden rush, and although the Russians are perfectly aware of their inability to cope with the Indian troops, it is to these sudden rushes which have taken the enemy unprepared, that the downfall of all Oriental monarchies has at all ages been due. We know, or ought to know, our foe, and if we are true to ourselves a Russian advance on India ought to excite no apprehensions. When, however, we come to Mongolia and Northern China, the real difficulty of the case stares us in the face, and it is here that we have most reason for anxiety. Beginning at Ili and stretching eastward as far at least as Shensi, Russia at the moment is practically mistress of the situation. Were the Chinese army to be depended on, no invasion here from Russia could have a chance of even momentary success, but as the Chinese

armies in the west are in much the same condition as the savage hordes led to Peking by TUNG FUSHIANG to slaughter the Legations, we may imagine how feeble a stand they could make even against the uncivilised hordes composing the Russian Asiatic army. From the eastern seaboard of China, and from India, these vast regions are practically unassailable, yet the occupation of Mongolia would be fraught with damage to British, and, we may add, Japanese interests. Russia, it is true, is to a certain extent vulnerable on the coast, and has fortunately given pledges in her fortifications of Vladivostock and Port Arthur. If, as she did in the Crimea, she made up her mind to defend these at any cost, the effort would exhaust her force in the entire of Eastern Asia, and she possibly might not try to risk a contest even with the western forces of China; but it is quite on the cards that Russia would elect to retire, feeling sure that in a subsequent settlement she would regain by diplomacy her lost ground. In such a case France would doubtless come to her help, but it is scarcely conceivable that in any other issue she would find herself in a position to render any effective service to her not over-scrupulous ally. It is quite possible that these thoughts have presented themselves to M. DELCASSE, and the apparent indifference with which France pretty evidently views the situation may after all have some foundation in hard necessity. It is something, certainly not much, to have Russia's promise to help her if she get into an European mess; but France just now is in one of her more practical moods; at all events M. DELCASSE does not exhibit any effusive desire to embroil the country in the pursuit of the inaccessible. We may, therefore, without attributing them to any profound attempt at dissimulation, accept the French Government's assertions that it is really desirous of a peaceful termination of the Chinese difficulty, and not over desirous of hastening the disintegration of the Empire.

MANCHURIA AND THE TWO AGREEMENTS.

(Daily Press, 5th April.)

The topic which naturally is causing the most discussion in the Far East and in circles where Far Eastern affairs are regarded with interest is the international situation as affected by the Anglo-Japanese and Franco-Russian agreements. Much of the criticism must of course be dismissed as irresponsible chatter, as when we find the Indo-Chinese papers considering the menace to France's Southern Asiatic possessions in the compact between Britain and Japan. As a matter of fact the only way in which this compact takes into account French Indo-China is in event of French aggression in the Two Kwang, which the French absurdly misappropriate as within their "sphere." The real interaction of the two agreements is an interesting problem, which only time can solve. M. DELCASSE has declared that French policy in China is in no way modified by the agreement with Russia. Such a statement is well in keeping with the satisfaction which the French Minister of Foreign Affairs expressed, on behalf of his country, at the guarantee of peace furnished by the Anglo-Japanese agreement. The rival pronouncement from Paris and St. Petersburg is also couched in terms which claim the maintenance of peace and the *status quo*—that expression so dear to the diplomatist—as the object of the disinterested signatories. It is, however, plain that the real

importance of the mutual bearing of the two agreements lies in the question of Manchuria. In the "China" whose integrity is to be maintained, Great Britain and Japan include Manchuria. The Russian Government remains silent, but the Russian and French Press for the most part write as though the idea of any other Power being concerned in Manchuria were intolerable. The protest which certain Russian journals urge the St. Petersburg Government to make at London and Tokyo against British and Japanese "espionage" in Manchuria is significant. According to all reports which reach us from the North, British and Japanese travellers have every obstacle put in the way of any journey through Manchuria, if indeed Japanese are not actually kept off the railway, as some despatches to Japan assert. Such conduct toward the subjects of two Powers at peace with Russia, the Russian guardians, for the time, of Manchuria have no right to exhibit; and it is an additional reason for disbelieving previous assurances from St. Petersburg as to Russia's intentions in Manchuria. We do not know what is meant by the charges of "espionage on the Manchurian coast," unless it signifies that Britain and Japan, seeing the dishonesty of the policy of Russia in this dependency of the Chinese Empire, naturally keep as strict a watch as possible on proceedings.

It is not a matter for surprise that a section of the Russian Press should discuss the question of the effect on the situation in the Far East of recent developments with considerably more acrimony than is permitted to strictly official organs. The threat of the *Novosti*, which is reported by our London correspondent, must not be estimated at more than its proper worth, but it shows at least the sentiments of one portion of the Russian nation. Owing to the difficulties which England and Japan place in the way of Russia securing a base of action on the Pacific Ocean, we are told, Russia must endeavour to reach the Indian Ocean, destroying the independence of Afghanistan and Baluchistan if necessary. Now, in the first place, Russia already has at Port Arthur and Dalny her base of action on the Pacific. This concession has been made to her before. What is objected to by Britain and Japan is a further encroachment, resulting in the absorption into the Russian Empire of the whole of Manchuria, where other Powers have considerable commercial interests at stake, and the loss of which to China seriously menaces Peking. With regard to the question of Russia gaining an outlet into the Indian Ocean, there are not wanting those who think that this is desirable rather than otherwise, as conducive to commercial development. Unfortunately for such reasoning, the analogy of Russia's action in Manchuria only too clearly shows what Russian expansion in the direction of India would mean. The security of our Indian possessions demands that land-grabbing of the kind characteristic of Russia should be absolutely checked in the neighbourhood of the Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean. The threat about destroying the independence of Afghanistan and Baluchistan cannot be regarded seriously. A curtailment by Russia of the territory of Afghanistan will never be tolerated by Britain until that period of decadence about which Continental Anglophobes love to write actually sets in. As for Baluchistan, though the country owns the rule of the Khan of Kelat, it is under the supervision of the Indian Governor-General's agent, and parts of it are already included in the

British dominions. The writer in the *Novosti* may therefore be dismissed as a mere Chauvinist. It is possible that, had Russia's policy in the East ever been aught but a series of acts of bad faith, her presence on the Persian Gulf might have been regarded with equanimity. Such a state of mind is not possibly now. The Manchurian question must be regarded apart from any such complications. The Tsar's Ministers have still their pledges to fulfil with regard to this portion of the Chinese Empire, and no amount of St. Petersburg cloud-blowing must be allowed to obscure the issues.

UNDESERVED HONOUR FOR THE LATE LI HUNG-CHANG.

(Daily Press, 31st March.)

It is not always easy to comprehend the actuating motives that lead Chinese statesmen to put their names to memorials to the Throne; and one of the most incomprehensible of these that we have lately met with is a memorial from the Viceroy of Nanking praying for permission to collect funds for the erection of a votive temple to the memory of the late LI HUNG-CHANG. The memorial is in many ways peculiar, and probably may be taken as indicative of the style of pressure that has been recently brought to bear on the old Viceroy: it is true that as Li was a former Viceroy, and nominally at least connected with the recovery of the city of Nanking from the Taiping rebels, H.E. LIU KUNG-YI may have considered himself the natural spokesman to be looked to by those desiring to honour the memory of the late Imperial favourite. Still there are memorials and memorials, and we would hardly expect the one to which H.E. has permitted his name to be affixed to represent his own private opinions on the subject; and this is made somewhat more apparent when we come to learn the suggesting cause of the memorial. In Nanking, it seems, there is an Expectant Taotai named PU WEN-KWAN, who as Prefect of Nanyang in Honan was formerly acquainted with Li, and he, we take it, rather than H.E. Liu, is to be accepted as the real author. At all events PU does not seem to have far advanced since the time when his patron was all powerful on the Yangtze. He still remains, as he was on Li's advancement to Chihli, a mere expectant of the next office in rank; and is doubtless anxious to pioneer a path into Imperial favour through singing the stale praises of one whom that Court has declared itself ready to honour by conferring on him a "Tolo Pall"—as on the continent of Europe a deceased subject might be honoured by the repetition of a state Requiem Mass. It is, however, instructive to read the official virtues of the departed statesman, and compare them with the actual facts. According to the author of the memorial, he loved his country. We do not deny that a certain love had penetrated to Li's heart, but it was very much the same love that Jack frequently exhibits for his bottle of rum, or a gourmet feels for some particularly agreeable gastronomic triumph. With regard to the converse, that the people loved him, at all events there was little sign that Li had ever obtained the affections of the Kiangsu people at large; certainly, when he was called from Nanking to the metropolitan province, there was no sign of any regret, but rather a feeling of satisfaction. With regard to Li's participation in the campaign that resulted in the capture of Nanking, history, according to the writer, belies itself in the case in apportioning all

the credit to the old Viceroy TS'ENG KWO-FAN. As a fact Li was at the time a Taotai, and not held in very high estimation either; most of his attempts to act on his own account having ended in not over creditable fiascos. It was not, in fact, till Li had secured the services in the first place of the American WARD, and after his death of the single-minded GORDON, that any stand was made against the rebels in lower Kiangsu, whither they had been driven by the abler and more honest TS'ENG. These little facts are recorded in all contemporary history, native as well as foreign. When therefore the memorialist goes on to say that Li had the principal, or indeed any part whatever, in the taking of Nanking, he states what is simply a deliberate falsehood. When the memorialist not content with this mere misstatement, goes on to say that the real credit of these operations belongs to LI HUNG-CHANG, he is making an attempt to falsify history; not, however, content with this, he goes on deliberately to malign the character of a man to whom Li was but as a satyr to HYPERION, and here H.E. LIU allows himself to be led into a statement unworthy of the man who has been the saviour of his country. The memorialist unblushingly states that it is to Li's credit that he purposely left to "his colleague" TS'ENG KWO-FAN, the sole honour of taking Nanking, when he might have easily joined in the siege and shared the glory of its capture. The plainest refutation of this extraordinary statement is that Li was never a "colleague" of the Viceroy TS'ENG; and, we may add, was never trusted by him more than he could possibly help. He did indeed succeed him in the viceroyalty, but there was a marked difference in the manner in which the two men were looked upon by those over whom they ruled. TS'ENG was given an ovation, in which all classes from the highest to the lowest joined, on his departure, and his funeral was a still more pronounced testimony of the love and almost adoration with which he was looked up to by all classes alike, while the other, beyond the bounds of his own immediate home at Luchowfu, was treated by the people with a coolness that rather bordered on contempt. In the suppression of the Nienfei rebellion what principally distinguished Li were his failures; the rebellion itself died a natural death, having never developed a leader or a cause. Li's action towards the Boxers, like all his other exploits, was merely waiting for the turn of events, and LIU, who was the real cause of the collapse of that movement, could hardly have read the remarks which he is supposed to have written. The whole document is a most curious instance of the influence at work in China, and a strange comment on its system of government.

The Australian Government has decided not to recommit the question of import duty on tea. The Melbourne correspondent of the *Times* states that there is the strongest possible protest from all the States against the abolition of the duty, but that the prospects of a reversal of the decision are slight.

Mr. Rublee, the U.S. Consul-General, received a telegram on the 29th ult. notifying the death from typhoid fever of Mr. Wright, pay-director of the U. S. Naval Pay Office. The late Mr. Wright was stationed here for some time, and was subsequently transferred to Manila, when the U. S. Pay Office was closed here. The deceased gentleman passed through Hongkong on his way home via Europe by the *Sachsen*, which left here on the 5th ult. Mrs. Wright accompanied her husband, and much sympathy is felt for her sad and untimely loss.

MR. MAY'S APPOINTMENT AS COLONIAL SECRETARY.

(Daily Press, 4th April.)

The announcement, which is to be found in another column to-day, of the appointment of the Hon. F. H. MAY, O.M.G., Captain Superintendent of Police, to the post of Colonial Secretary in Hongkong, rendered vacant by the promotion of the Hon. J. H. STEWART-LOCKHART to Weihai-wei, cannot but be received with mixed feelings in this Colony. It was of course recognised, when Mr. LOCKHART's transference was made known, that if the Colonial Secretaryship was to be given to an official already in the Hongkong Government service, it must fall to Mr. MAY on account of his seniority and services. There was, however, the other alternative of an appointment from outside, and not from our own service. There have not been wanting strong expressions of hope that this latter course would be adopted by the Colonial Office authorities. The reason for this is not hard to understand. No one denies the merits of the career of Mr. MAY in this Colony. Appointed to a Hongkong Cadetship in 1881, he was employed as a passed cadet in the Colonial Secretary's Office from 1886. During the years 1889-91 he was private secretary in succession to the Governor, Sir WILLIAM DES VŒUX, to Sir J. FLEMING, and to Lieutenant General DIGBY BARKEB. In 1891 he was appointed Assistant Colonial Secretary, and next year Assistant Colonial Treasurer. In 1893 he became Captain Superintendent of Police, an office which he has held up to now. In 1895 he was appointed to the Legislative Council and received his C.M.G., being decorated for services rendered during the coolie strike and the plague epidemic of 1894. In 1896 he was made Superintendent of Victoria Gaol and of the Fire Brigade. In September last Captain Superintendent MAY went home on leave, whence he will return about the 14th proximo as Colonial Secretary. When we mention that he is also author of a *Guide to Colloquial Cantonese*, it will be recognised that he has during his connection with Hongkong shown his versatility in a remarkable degree. To his connection with the Sanitary Board it is hardly necessary to call attention, for he was in that body much too prominent a member to be overlooked or forgotten. A good verdict on Mr. MAY's position was recently given by the Hongkong correspondent of the *North-China Daily News*, when he wrote:—"A capable, industrious, and 'hard-working' official, Mr. MAY was 'formerly popular and respected. He is 'still respected, but truth compels me to 'say that he is popular no longer. "It must be conceded that the honourable 'gentleman has all the qualifications that 'go to make a Dictator. Unfortunately the 'Colony does not want a Dictator, and is not 'in a mood to be run by the head of the 'Police department." The same correspondent expressed the hope that in the Colonial Secretary's Office, if he should be promoted to that post, Mr. MAY's talents would be less wasted than in the Police. Hongkong residents must be contented, with this correspondent, to hope for the best. Certainly the methods which Mr. MAY adopted as Captain Superintendent of Police and member of the Sanitary Board will not bear transplantation to the Colonial Secretary's Office. Friction between the Police department and the public is always to be deplored, and such friction was marked in 1900-1901. A welcome change has been observable of late, and for this reason

among others we trust that in the appointment to the now vacant office of Captain Superintendent of Police the excellent work of the present acting official will not be overlooked. Under Mr. BADELEY's guidance there has been no relaxation in the efficiency of the police, the rumours of discontent have died away, and the public has generally been treated with the courtesy which it is entitled to demand. The office of policeman tends perhaps to the encouragement of an overbearing spirit toward the rest of the world, and this makes it very necessary that the head of the Force should be not only strong but also self-restrained.

BOMBAY, HONGKONG, AND THE PLAGUE.

(Daily Press, 3rd April.)

The *Times of India* has been vigorously protesting against the "wild and extravagant statements regarding the results of the prevalence of plague in Bombay that are obtaining currency," and finds it distressing to think what the ultimate result upon the trade of the city is likely to be. It appears that another Bombay paper has been stating that Bombay is "the blackest spot in the civilised world," "the breeding-ground of the most destructive disease known to mankind," and "the pest-house of the world"; and finally, that if it were not for British might the Powers would send a cordon of warships to isolate Bombay, and a line of soldiers to confine the inhabitants on the land side. It is hardly to be wondered at that such language has called forth a protest. The *Times of India* says that Canton, "where the mortality from plague was at one time far severer than in Bombay," still enjoys uninterrupted intercourse and an enormous trade with the world without, in spite of the absence of the strong arm to protect it. As for the assertion about Bombay being the breeding-ground of the most destructive disease known to mankind, our contemporary asserts that plague is not the most destructive disease and that there is not a case of plague that has been discovered on any ship after leaving Bombay during the last five years that has not been traced and duly accounted for. The most probable case of infection from Bombay, the *Times of India* considers to be the outbreak in South Africa, though it finds no direct evidence implicating the Indian port. The journal therefore protests against the idea being spread abroad that Bombay is infecting the world and continues: "If our existence as a great seaport 'is in danger of being threatened, the trouble 'will arise, not so much from the 'presence of plague, as from the incalculable 'mischiefs done by assertions of the kind 'under discussion, which will be readily 'accepted in Europe when it is known that 'they have been openly printed in Bombay." The *Times* insists on the adequacy of the measures now being taken in Bombay—"not long ago," says our contemporary, "the Governor of Hongkong pressed his Council to initiate some of the measures adopted in this city"—and on the undesirability of heroic remedies any longer. The ultimate extinction of plague in India, as the Plague Commission pointed out, must rest with the people themselves. In a second article on the same subject, the *Times of India* takes up this point again, saying: "Plague, it is now realised, cannot be 'stamped out in a few short months, as 'was at first hoped. Its eradication must 'be a slow and gradual process, accomplished without unduly depriving whole 'communities of their liberty of life and

action. This is the spirit that now inspires 'the measures of Government, which, 'though not beyond criticism, are reasonably palliative. The victory over plague 'can only be completed when the people 'are better acquainted with the virtues of 'light and air. Their co-operation is 'essential; and we have had bitter experience 'that violent haste will only succeed in 'arousing their resistance."

The *Times of India*, it will be remembered, sneered at the complaints of the severity of the epidemic in Hongkong last year, and strongly supported the official side in the discussion over the sanitary condition of this Colony. However, though we may think that the Indian paper was then writing without any first-hand knowledge of the subject discussed—for the mortality though not approaching the appalling, even incredible death-rate announced from the Punjab yesterday, was terribly severe in Hongkong, and the sanitary conditions have at last forced themselves upon the notice of our authorities—we are quite ready to sympathise with Bombay over the wildly inaccurate accounts published about its state. As a disseminator of infection Bombay is bound to be less guilty than Hongkong as far as the conveyance of infected persons by sea is concerned. The principles of the Venice Convention are very strictly observed there and the harbour inspection system has been declared as nearly as possible perfect. In Hongkong we have recently rejected a recommendation to appoint two assistant surgeons to examine passengers entering and leaving the port; hence the risks which have existed in the past of our contracting and spreading plague, etc., are still as great as ever. As far as the sanitary supervision of the city and suburbs is concerned, a vast measure of improvement has this year been introduced, and it seems as if it were already bearing fruit, as regards plague at least. But while the ingress into and egress from the Colony of countless natives, potentially the bearers of disease, is absolutely free, we cannot protest with the sincerity of Bombay against the outcry of our neighbours.

THE KWANGSI TROUBLES.

(Daily Press, 1st April.)

Our Pakhoi correspondent's announcement of the arrival at that port of several detachments of Chinese troops despatched by sea from Canton, on their way to Nanning, confirms the report of the Canton correspondent of our senior evening contemporary a few days ago that the Viceroy of the Kwang provinces had been stirred up by recent news to despatch troops against the rebels or robbers—whichever is their most fitting appellation—in Kwangsi. Those rumours which have reached Hongkong with regard to the Kwangsi "rebellion" have been scanty and uncircumstantial, and indeed more seems to have been made of it in Shanghai and the North than in this neighbourhood. The fact is, as the *China Mail's* correspondent pointed out, Kwangsi is in a chronic state of rebellion, and for this reason Canton does not trouble itself much about reports of insurrection in the province. From what our Pakhoi correspondent writes in his letter of the 26th ult., neither is Pakhoi much alarmed by the reports, though an extension of the disturbances would materially affect the port's trade. The suggestion that foreign men-of-war might sometimes visit Pakhoi is worthy of consideration. At present the duty is left practically entirely to the French, who have, however, no ground for looking on Pakhoi as their own preserve. Such

calls would add to the sense of security among the residents. Some small Chinese gunboats have been busy at the port during the end of March, and by the 26th of that month one thousand men had been despatched for Nanning, the rebel headquarters. However, the Canton correspondent whom we quoted above wrote on the 22nd ult.:—"It is questionable if the troops sent by the government are at all able to do the work of restoring order, and if the rebels take to guerilla-fighting then a force of from thirty to fifty thousand men will be needed." This is putting a serious aspect on the rising, which we have not yet had news of sufficient gravity to justify. It is earnestly to be hoped that nothing so disastrous as such an outbreak would necessarily be to West River trade is to be anticipated. It is impossible from the reports which we have up to now received to form a reliable estimate of the difficulties which confront the Canton authorities.

CHOLERA IN MANILA.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

MANILA, 2nd April, 7.40 p.m.

The total number of cases of cholera here is now 118 and the death-roll is 93. The last cases were discovered on river shipping—in native lighters.

The Chinese conceal the dead bodies in the fields and desert the victims in the houses, to avoid detention. From the camp where 2,000 suspects are undergoing five-day observation, hundreds continue escaping to the provinces, despite strong quarantine regulations. Foreigners are not in fear of the disease. The feeling of panic is confined to the natives.

[The latest returns of cholera cases and deaths up to noon yesterday (says the *Manila Times* of the 28th ultimo) showed a total of 63 cases, and 48 deaths, which is an increase, for the previous 24 hours, of 14 cases, and seven deaths, and which brings the percentage of deaths down to 68.9 per cent. The increase in the cases is principally caused by several cases breaking out in already affected families.]

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on the 3rd inst. in the Board Room. Present:—Dr. J. M. Atkinson, Principal Civil Medical Officer (President); Hon. A. W. Brawn, Registrar-General (Vice-President); Hon. W. Chatham, Director of Public Works; Dr. F. W. Clark, Medical Officer of Health; Mr. F. J. Badeley, Acting Captain Superintendent of Police; Lieut.-Colonel Hughes, R.A.M.C.; Mr. Edward Osborne, and Mr. G. A. Woodcock (Secretary).

THE NEW BUILDING BILL.

The following minute by the Medical Officer of Health was submitted:—"I beg to recommend that the Board should consider at its next annual meeting the advisability of recommending the Government to include, in the new Building Bill, a clause requiring the internal surfaces of the wall of all kitchens hereafter erected to be rendered smooth and impervious by means of Portland cement, asphalt, or such other material as may be approved by the Board, to a height of not less than four feet from the level of the floor. I find that these kitchen walls become sodden with sullage water, thus rendering them offensive, soft, and often ruinous; and the above requirements would do much to obviate this condition."

The PRESIDENT moved that the minute be referred to the Government by the Board.

Lieut.-Colonel HUGHES seconded, and the motion was adopted unanimously.

URINAL IN ICE HOUSE ROAD.

Further correspondence was laid on the table with reference to the proposed erection of a public urinal in Ice House Road.

The Colonial Secretary forwarded a petition

sent in by owners and occupiers of Ice House Road protesting against the erection of the urinal. The signatories were E. R. Bellios (by his attorney, R. Chatterton Wilcox), Chau Tung Shan (by his agent, Fung Wa Chun), W. A. Rublee, U.S. Consul-General, the Hongkong Ice Co., Ltd. (pro Wm. Parlano, manager), the Frozen Food Supply (pro Wm. Parlano, manager), Wm. Danby, L. Pyle (manageress, Waverley Hotel), Edm. Johansen, A. Hahn (Club Eintracht), A. Fong, Mee Cheung, G. P. Lam-mert, and Wendt & Co. The petitioners submitted that the proposed site was open to even graver objections than the one in Battery Path.

A letter of protest from Mr. E. C. Wilks, one of the proprietors of the Waverley Hotel, was also submitted.

The President in his minute upon the correspondence remarked:—"Will members please state whether they think that a similar reply should be sent as in the case of the American Consul's letter."

The Registrar-General minuted:—"I agree, but should like to know when it was definitely decided to build this urinal in Ice House Street?"

The Director of Public Works minuted, "I agree with the President."

The Medical Officer of Health's minute was as follows:—"I agree with the President."

The Acting Captain Superintendent of Police minuted:—"Proceed as the President suggests."

Mr. Edward Osborne:—"The whole question requires reconsideration. Battery Path urinal has existed for a number of years and can go on for a little longer till we have reconsidered the matter. I do not remember the Board having been consulted as to the proposed new site."

Mr. Fung Wa Chun:—"Under the circumstances I am of opinion that urinals in this locality should not be permitted to exist."

In reply to the enquiry of the Registrar-General.

The PRESIDENT stated that the adoption of this site was originally recommended at a meeting of the Public Works Committee held on the 23rd January, 1901.

Lieut.-Colonel HUGHES—Why is the urinal to be removed from its present site?

Dr. CLARK—Its removal has been recommended for anything from 15 to 16 years now. It does not matter where you go, you will have some objections to meet.

The VICE-PRESIDENT—I beg to move that the same reply be sent in this case as was done in the case of the American Consul. If this site was selected more than a year ago and if people wanted to object, I think they ought to have objected before the contract was entered into and the work actually commenced, which is the case here. I do not see how we can possibly reconsider our decision. Of course the minutes of the Public Works Committee are laid on the table at the meetings of Council and are available by the newspapers.

Dr. CLARK seconded.

Mr. OSBORNE—I beg to move as an amendment that this matter be referred back to the Government. I do not consider that the mere placing on the table of the minutes of the Public Works Committee is a sufficient notification to the people of the neighbourhood that this thing is going to be moved under their very noses. I think the site that has been selected, and which, as I say, I do not think was referred to the Sanitary Board, is not a good one. As is set forth in the petition by the people in the neighbourhood the road is a highway to the Peak and the upper levels and it is a narrow street, surrounded by hotels, offices, and private buildings. I think that a better site might be selected. I move accordingly.

Hon. W. CHATHAM—If the motion had not been seconded by Dr. Clark I was perfectly prepared to do so. I think the Board is rather stultifying itself in proposing to delay any longer the carrying out of the work that has been urged by us for so many years. Anywhere that the place is put it must necessarily cause some little offence to those resident in properties in the neighbourhood; but I do not see that we can improve upon the position that has been chosen for such a place in this locality. I therefore think that the petitioners should be answered to the effect that the Government cannot grant their request.

The amendment was not seconded, and the

motion was carried, all voting for it with the exception of Mr. Osborne.

ADDITIONS TO THE STAFF.

The PRESIDENT—I beg to move the suspension of the standing orders in order to make the following motion:—"That the Board delegate to a select committee, consisting of the President and the Medical Officer of Health, full powers to make whatever arrangements may be necessary for obtaining temporary additions to the staff to enable the officers of the Board to deal effectively with any outbreaks of disease that may occur." The object in bringing this motion before the Board is to obviate unnecessary delay. To take a case in point: some extra coolies are required for disinfecting purposes and in order to obtain these, papers had to be circulated round among the Board, with the result that seven or eight days were lost. It is most important that we should have the disinfecting staff at full strength as soon as possible; and if the Board approve of this motion it will obviate any delay in the future. If any epidemic does break out we must deal with it promptly and at once. I may mention here that last week less than 14 per cent. of the rats examined at the mortuary were found to be infected with plague.

Hon. W. CHATHAM in seconding the motion said—I fully agree with your remarks, Mr. President, that under existing conditions it is very important that no time should be lost in proceeding with the necessary work of disinfection.

The motion was carried unanimously.

MANILA DECLARED INFECTED.

The PRESIDENT, in moving that the Board recommend the Government to declare Manila to be an infected port, said—The object of this must be obvious. It is on account of the presence there of cholera in an epidemic form, making the inspection of ships arriving from Manila a necessary precaution.

The motion was agreed to.

PLAGUE-STRICKEN RATS IN KOWLOON.

Dr. CLARK—I beg to ask permission to bring forward a motion that would have been brought forward in the usual course at next regular meeting, to declare Kowloon a district within which cleansing work may be done. I am driven to bringing it forward to-day because within the last half-hour I have received a report that two of the rats found in Kowloon were plague-infected; and I think, under those circumstances, we should proceed at once with the cleansing work there. The motion is:—"That the Board declare Kowloon as a district within which officers of the Board shall make a house-to-house visitation for the purpose of cleansing and disinfecting the premises contained therein, in accordance with the Bye-laws for the Prevention or Mitigation of Epidemic, Endemic, or Contagious Diseases, made under the Public Health Ordinance, No. 13 of 1901."

Mr. OSBORNE seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

MORTALITY STATISTICS.

The mortality statistics showed that during the week ended 15th March the death-rate was 17.9 per 1,000 of the population per annum as compared with 18.8 in the previous week and 14.9 in the corresponding week of last year.

THE CLEANSING GANGS.

A return was submitted which showed that during the fortnight ended 22nd March, 1,031 houses had been dealt with by the cleansing gangs; the number of floors fumigated being 1,691 and the number of floors cleansed 2,735.

This was all the public business.

Another meeting of merchants was held at Swatow on the evening of the 25th ult. and was addressed by Mr. Jamieson on the tariff proposals. No resolutions were submitted.

The *Shanghai Mercury* of the 25th ult. says:—Governor Truppel left here for Kioochau yesterday. The official paper of the Kioochau stated that he came here for the purpose of consulting a physician, but we doubt this very much. Dr. Schrammeyer, Commissioner for Chinese Affairs, accompanied him here, and from what we can gather they both came here on business connected with shipping, and they have entered into an agreement with certain Japanese shipping companies that their steamers should call at Tsingtao.

THE NEW CHIEF JUSTICE OF HONGKONG.

His Honour W. Meigh Goodman, K.C., whose appointment as Chief Justice of the Colony in succession to Sir John W. Carrington was recently announced, took his seat on the Bench for the first time yesterday at the Supreme Court, and received the congratulations of the Bar upon the occasion.

The Chief Justice was accompanied on the Bench by His Honour T. Sercombe Smith, Acting Puisne Judge. Those present were the Hon. A. G. Wise (Acting Attorney-General), Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, Messrs. F. A. Hazeland (Police-Magistrate), E. H. Sharp, T. Morgan Phillips, C. A. D. Melbourne (Magistrates' Clerk), F. X. D'Almada e Castro, F. C. Barlow, E. A. Bonner, F. B. I. Bowley (Crown Solicitor), H. F. R. Brayne, G. K. H. Bruton, F. B. Deacon, V. H. Deacon, H. L. Denny, P. W. Goldring, E. J. Grist, J. S. Harston, J. Hastings, J. Hays, H. K. Holmes, H. Hursthouse, G. C. C. Master, E. C. Pontifex, J. F. Reece, M. J. D. Stephens, O. D. Thomson, S. W. Tso, Wei On, C. D. Wilkinson, C. Ewens. The following officers of the Court were present: Messrs. J. W. Norton Kyshe (Registrar), J. W. Jones and C. J. Xavier (Acting Deputy Registrars), Leo d'Almada e Castro (Acting First Clerk of the Court), A. B. Suffad (Acting Second Clerk of the Court), J. Dyer Ball (Chief Interpreter), Li Hong Mi (Assistant Interpreter), V. A. Sales (Clerk and Usher), F. Howell (Head Bailiff), J. Leonard and J. F. Rozario (Assistant Bailiffs), Leung Tsan (Shroff), and G. Thomas (Librarian).

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL said—My Lord, as this is the first occasion on which you have taken your seat on that bench after your appointment to the post of Chief Justice, the members of the legal profession in the Colony thought it would be proper and fit to come here this morning and congratulate you on that appointment. My Lord, you are not a stranger to us. Somewhere about twelve years ago, you came here as Attorney-General, and, I think I am correct in saying, on three occasions during that term of years you have acted as Chief Justice. Also, I believe you have acted as Colonial Secretary, which, although it has nothing to do with our profession, at the same time, if one might put it in that way, has given you an insight into what I might call the internal economy of the Colony. After such an experience, it must be subject of congratulation to us, and, I may say, to the whole Colony, that a gentleman has been appointed as Chief Justice so well versed in the laws and customs of the place. Before you came here, as I gather from the *Colonial List*, you were Attorney-General and Chief Justice of British Honduras; and I think I may say that sixteen years ago you were a Chief Justice. That seems to me, to sum up the whole matter, to show that no better man could be appointed than yourself; and it therefore simply falls on me to tender our congratulations to you—the heartiest congratulations of the legal profession—and in doing so to express our firm conviction that you will worthily maintain the dignity of your high office in the same way as your predecessors in Hongkong have done.

His LORDSHIP said—Mr. Attorney-General and gentlemen, Allow me to thank you most sincerely for the very kind words which have been addressed to me by the Attorney-General on behalf of the Bar and the other members of the legal profession. It is but natural that I should appreciate very highly the honour which has been conferred upon me by my appointment to the Chief Justiceship of this Colony, and I can only hope that I may be able, while I hold this office, to walk worthily in the footsteps of the distinguished judges who have heretofore presided in this Court. It is now rather more than 16 years since I was first appointed Chief Justice of another Colony; and during the four years I held that office, as well as on the three occasions when I have been called upon to act as Chief Justice of Hongkong, I always experienced much consideration and kindness from the members of the Bar and the legal profession generally. I do not come to this Bench as a stranger to the members of the legal profession or to Hongkong and its people. I feel that I am among

friends. The twelve years that I have spent among you, as Attorney-General, have made me a believer in Hongkong and its future. On all sides one is met by the unmistakable marks of energy, of enterprise and industry; and, when occasion arises, one finds there is no lack of kindness of heart and practical generosity among the Colonists. In so cosmopolitan a community, there must naturally be many difficulties which confront those whose lot it is to govern and to legislate for the requirements of the Colony; there must be, in the ordinary course of things, many interesting problems, legal and otherwise, which require to be carefully worked out and solved. But one, at least, of the essential factors in the well-being and progress of any community, is the even-handed and honest administration of justice. I believe that the judges of this Colony have not only striven to administer the law fairly and impartially to all, but they have striven with such success that there is a very general feeling among the people of all races and classes that in our Courts they do, and will, obtain not only a patient hearing, but a just decision. It must always be remembered that a judge can only decide upon the facts brought before him. The presentation of those facts depends much upon the integrity and industry of the gentlemen of the legal profession. It is not the part of an honourable and upright lawyer to encourage litigation among an Eastern community who are perhaps somewhat ignorant of British law. It is rather his duty to consider the true interest of his client and to make his own interest subservient to that. That I believe to be the professional code which the members of the Bar and the solicitors of Hongkong set before them as the right and proper standard of conduct. I feel quite sure, gentlemen, that I shall not count in vain upon your cordial assistance and support in my endeavours, according to my ability, to carry on the judicial traditions of this Bench and to hand them on untarnished to my successor when my tenure of office is at an end.

The Court adjourned *sine die*.

S. ANDREW'S SOCIETY.

PRESENTATIONS TO PAST PRESIDENTS.

An important ceremony took place on the 29th ult. in the City Hall, when the members of S. Andrew's Society met to do honour to three of its Past Presidents on the occasion of their leaving the Colony—Mr. David Gillies, Mr. Fullarton Henderson, and the Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, C.M.G. (Colonial Secretary). The Hon. Y. H. Whitehead, President of the Society, presided, and in addition to the above there were present Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving, Hon. A. M. Thomson, Messrs. G. C. Anderson, Andrew Forbes, David Wood, W. Douglas Graham, Wm. Kidd, D. R. Law, J. L. Houston, D. E. Brown, Robert Shewan, T. H. Reid, W. A. Cruickshank, O. D. Thomson, M. Stewart, R. J. Gerrard, J. F. Boulton, I. Grant Smith, W. B. Dixon, W. Parlange, J. Macgregor Forbes, W. Danby, R. B. Moorhead, Dr. Rennie, Dr. Gibson, and many ladies.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD said—Ladies and fellow Scots, we are met to-day to bid adieu and to fervently wish God-speed to three of the Past Presidents of S. Andrew's Society. The occasion is an unique one, and fully warrants our assembling together to try to do honour to these stalwarts, who have indelibly written their names on the history of the Society. (Applause.) We Scotsmen entertain "a guid conceit" of ourselves, but perhaps 'tis well we should do so for reasons which need not now be entered into. "'Tis a poor heart that never rejoices," so many of you may probably agree that so long as Scotland produces men of the bodily physique and the mental calibre of our three Past Presidents there is some reason to believe that Scotsmen may continue to try to hold their own wherever energy, perseverance, and industry are qualifications required to contribute to success in life. (Applause.) Time forbids me to attempt to enter into any detailed reference to the many virtues and manly qualities of these Past Presidents who are soon going from among us. They have resided here for many years, and each one of them became original members of the Society when it was regularly constituted in 1881, from which year until 1892 the lamented Honourable Phineas

Ryrie was President. The late Highlander, whose name in his day was a household word in Hongkong, was in reality the father of our Society, and Auld Scotland never gave birth to a more worthy son. Each of the three Past Presidents has contributed to the welfare of the Society, and assuredly they will be very greatly missed. Barring the heavy legacy of insanitation bequeathed by the system of Crown Colony Government, which can scarcely be regarded as abreast of the needs of the times, Mr. David Gillies, who was President of the Society from 1893 to 1894, leaves Hongkong in the full bloom of prosperity, with every prospect that it will become still more prosperous and will occupy in the near future a more important and a far greater position than it has ever done in the past. In various directions there is tangible evidence that foreign trade in China, with her vast natural undeveloped resources, is yet still in its infancy. (Applause.) The first docks in Hongkong were founded by a Scotchman, and we are gratified to think that the great Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co. is virtually the offspring of another Scotchman. Mr. Gillies materially aided in bringing its docking facilities into existence, and these are unsurpassed in the Far East. Mainly through his indomitable pluck, perseverance, intellectual force, dogged determination, iron will, and shrewd business capacity, the Company is now firmly established on a substantial foundation and in the enjoyment of robust maturity, with every prospect of further development and continuous prosperity. In that great industrial establishment which now includes engineering and shipbuilding, Mr. Gillies leaves with us an enduring monument, with which his name will ever be honourably and inseparably associated. (Applause.) Mr. Fullarton Henderson has been for a long period of years closely connected with various branches of the business of the port, he has ever taken an intelligent interest in local affairs, and as President from 1895 to 1896 he was one of the most popular officials the Society ever had. As President of the kindred society known as "Ye Cronies," founded by our genial and irrepressible friend, Dr. Jamie Cantlie—(laughter and applause)—he has scored many a success. Mr. Henderson is a man of generous instincts, and with his large fund of Scottish wit and humour he has been a great acquisition in the social life of Hongkong. Many a time and oft have his numerous friends derived a no ordinary intellectual treat from listening to his unique post-prandial oratory and eloquence unequalled in the Far East. We sincerely hope his visit to the old country will speedily restore him to his wonted health and strength, and that at no distant date he will come back amongst us, if only for a short spell. (Applause.) A warm and a most cordial welcome will await him on his return. Mr. Stewart Lockhart distinguished himself at one of our best Scottish schools and at the Edinburgh University. By persevering study and a great capacity for taking pains, he has raised himself to his present high position. He was President from 1896 to 1897, and leaves us soon to take up his official duties as first Governor of Weihaiwei—the sanatorium of North China, as it has been recently described in Parliament. Speaking of Weihaiwei in the House of Lords on the 10th ult. Lord Onslow said:—"It is hoped that in Mr Lockhart's hands Weihaiwei will be made to yield a much larger revenue. . . . Your Lordships will recollect that Hongkong was in very much the same position as Weihaiwei is to-day. . . . Yet it has proved to be a very important commercial port, and Weihaiwei has the advantage of being on the highway from the Gulf of Pechili to Northern China." Mr Lockhart's long experience of Hongkong will stand him in good stead, and if any one can do so he will in due course bring about a realisation of Lord Onslow's expectations. Mr Lockhart's has been a prominent name in the House of Commons and in the leading English newspapers during the past two months, and we Hongkong Scotsmen who know him well do not doubt for one moment that Weihaiwei will be but a stepping stone to a more important Governorship. (Applause.) Robert Burns was "born for all mankind," and through his writings our immortal Bard has done more than all others put together to stir into life and to keep

alive Scottish national sentiment and Scottish spirit, for which we should all feel the most reverent gratitude. Carlyle well said of Burns:—"His songs are part of the mother tongue not of Scotland only, but of Britain and of the millions that in all the ends of the earth speak the British language in hut and hall, as the heart unfolds itself in many coloured joy and woe of existence, the name and the voice of that joy and that woe is the name and voice which Burns has given them. No British man has so deeply affected the thoughts and the feelings of so many men as this solitary individual with means apparently the humblest." I think you will approve of my saying to our three Past Presidents in Burns' words:—"Better lo'ed ye canna be, will ye no' come back again?" Brithers Scots, the quaichs which, on your behalf, I now have the honour to ask Messrs. Gillies, Henderson, and Lockhart to accept, are small tokens of the respect, friendship, and esteem entertained by fellow-members of the Hongkong S. Andrew's Society. In whatever part of the world they may find themselves, we feel sure they will continue to help to keep alive Scottish national sentiment and Scottish spirit so essential to the best interests of Britain's world-wide Empire. (Applause.) Ladies and gentlemen, I ask you to join with me in drinking their health, happiness, and continued prosperity.

The toast was duly pledged.

Mr. DAVID GILLIES, who on rising to reply was warmly received, said Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen and brother Scots, I have to thank you most heartily and most gratefully for the very eloquent and grand speech that has been given to us by our worthy Chief. It will be somewhat difficult for me to reply to such a fine speech. However, I shall be glad to do my best. In the name of the Hon. Stewart Lockhart and Mr. Fullarton Henderson, I beg to express our extreme satisfaction and appreciation of the very eloquent terms in which our President has referred to our long career in the Far East. We also thank him for the very kind and genial manner in which he was referred to the services we have rendered to the Hongkong S. Andrew's Society. And yet again we have to thank him and you all for the beautiful presentation you have made to us and for the kind words which have accompanied it. Our meeting here to-day forms a very happy and pleasant episode in our connection with the Society of which we are all so justly proud and with which we have been so closely identified, having been members of the Committee for many years now, ever since the Society was formed, and having at all times taken a very warm and close connection with everything that tended to promote its best interests. We have received at your hands, gentlemen, the honour of being elected President for the usual term of office, and as the attainment of that proud position is the aim and ambition of many of our worthier Scots in the Colony, I assure you, on behalf of the gentlemen on my right and on my left, that we appreciate that honour most highly indeed and the distinguished honour you have conferred upon us will ever lie green upon our memory. (Applause.) Our Society has been established for over 20 years, and I think I may safely affirm that in all respects its success has far exceeded the most sanguine expectations of its early promoters. Under its ægis we celebrate our S. Andrew's night with our friends, comprising all that is worthy and beautiful in the Colony of Hongkong; and, forgetting for the time the cares and troubles of life, we abandon ourselves to the full pleasures and enjoyments of the dance and to the keen excitement of the reel and the strathspey, lifting the curtain for a time and revealing all good Scotsmen in their true character, overflowing with genuine hospitality and good fellowship. (Applause.) Our S. Andrew's Ball is a sight that it would be very hard indeed to surpass anywhere. It is a spectacle which, once seen, will never be forgotten, but will remain permanently and indelibly imprinted on the memory.—(hear, hear)—and the occasion exhibits in a peculiar light in many instances the unrestrained enthusiasm of the dour and canny Scot. But although we enjoy ourselves on these occasions, I need hardly say that our Society has other and nobler responsibilities which are fully discharged, in extending relief and assistance to all poor and distressed

countrymen who may have the misfortune to be stranded on the shores of Hongkong; and it is a feeling of much gratification to us to know that many a poor hungry and sorrowful-at-heart Scot has been relieved, comforted, and sent to some other port in China where the prospect of employment is more favourable than in Hongkong; or it may be that he receives a free passage to his native land, where he will be sure to remember with feelings of gratitude the timely aid and assistance extended to him by the Society. Mr. President and brother Scots, with grateful feelings we accept this beautiful presentation to us, with full appreciation of the amiable motives which prompted them—(hear, hear)—and whenever we entertain our friends in the old country with a dram of the mountain dew taken from these beautiful quaichs, and when we record in pathetic words the circumstances under which they were presented, I assure you that the *deoch-an-doris* will be none the less acceptable. (Applause.) As our worthy Chief has just informed you, we are about to leave this Colony and leave many warm and kind friends. (Applause.) But although we are absent, I assure you it will always give us great joy to remember the many joys and pressures we have participated in under this roof, and we shall always be with you in spirit at the celebration of the anniversary of our patron Saint. From the fulness of our heart we pray for the welfare of the Hongkong S. Andrew's Society; may it ever prosper and remain a fitting tribute to bonnie Scotland and to her worthy and patriotic sons. I take this opportunity of expressing the very great delight and pleasure we experience in seeing so many ladies present this afternoon. (Applause.) I assure you it is a very high compliment indeed, and we appreciate it to the fullest extent, and I believe it will be one of the proudest reminiscences of this meeting that we saw so many of our best and bonniest in Hongkong. (Applause.)

Mr. FULLARTON HENDERSON said—Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen, I feel entirely at a loss to reply to this very brilliant compliment that has been paid me I say undeservedly—and I say undeservedly advisedly—because for some years I have carefully made a point of deserting the annual gatherings, which I am glad to say, however, have always gone off brilliantly without any of my poor assistance. It is a great pleasure to me to think that they are so successful; each celebration seems to be an improvement upon the one that goes before. They are justly very popular, naturally, I think, because they afford a vast amount of amusement to a very large number of people. I believe that even the ladies are kind enough to speak favourably of it, and I have been told—I suppose it is true—that they have upon these occasions expressed the opinion that their hearts are often as light as their heels. (Laughter and applause.) We are rather inclined to say bitter things sometimes of Hongkong, but I can assure you that it is a very difficult place to go away from—very hard indeed. The only thing that helps us on our way is that we are fortunate enough to think and feel sure that we carry with us the kind wishes of a great many friends. (Applause.) If it was wanted, I think these quaichs may be taken as a material guarantee of their soundness. The quaich, I believe, was originally a very humble domestic utensil, and was made of bone. These are entirely a work of art, and may, I think, be taken as symbolical of the connection between two great nations—need I say Scotland and China? (Laughter and applause.) In bidding you all farewell, I should like to express the hope that the S. Andrew's Society will long continue to be the great institution it is at present that it will prosper and that all the sons of S. Andrew will prosper along with it. I would recommend to them—and I have expressed the hope—that they may be long able to fill their quaichs; may they long also be able to empty them! (Laughter and applause.) These quaichs could be in no better way employed than in drinking to the health and happiness of the daughters of S. Andrew. (Applause.)

Hon. J. H. STEWART LOCKHART said—Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen, Mr. Gillies has so exactly expressed all my sentiments that I may say he has stolen all my ideas, and that is one reason why I do not propose to detain you

many minutes now. Also there is another reason. You are all aware that we are at present suffering from a drought, but Nature has compensated us—so the Press informs us—by having turned on a spate of speech. In my early days, when I was a youngster, I had a dear old Highland nurse—God bless her memory!—who used to advise me when I was wordy and inclined to be argumentative; in golden words she used to say. "The least said, the soonest mended." Acting on that advice, I do not propose to add to any extent to the volume of that spate of speech which the Press now states is roaring in this Colony. (Laughter.) But it would be affectation on my part if I were to pretend that I am not much touched by the reception which you have given us to-day. We are all proud of our country, and when we see to-day Scotsmen and Scotswomen assembled here to show us that they appreciate the small services we have rendered we would indeed be possessed of natures very cold and such as we are not accustomed to in the land of the hill and the heather if we were not much moved and did not feel our blood tingle. (Applause.) It is difficult for me, as I say, to express really all I feel. We know that the Scot is coy and hard to please—a characteristic indeed which is also possessed by another important section of the human race which I am glad to see so well represented here to-day. (Applause.) It is therefore specially gratifying to find that we are in the possession of the confidence and esteem and the good-will of our fellow-countrymen, whose opinion I value above that of all others. (Applause.) I shall never, Mr. President and brother Scots, forget the kindness you have shown us to-day. My only regret is that I feel truly unworthy of all the kind words that have been said with regard to myself. This quaich which you have been good enough to present to me will form a very pleasant memento of my associations with the S. Andrew's Society and its members, and when in the natural course of time it is handed down to my son, he will be proud to know that, whatever his demerits may have been, his father was fortunate enough to possess the good-will of his fellow-countrymen in Hongkong, the good-will of the sons of Scotland, that country which he loves so dear. (Applause.) Mr. Whitehead, our President, has very kindly alluded to my almost immediate departure to Weihaiwei, a place, ladies and gentlemen, which a very high Minister of State has just described as "a second-class watering place." I do not know whether that description was given with a political object in view, or whether it was given to encourage those who have to go there at this time to try to make it into something better than "a second-class watering place." But, ladies and gentlemen, a Scotsman, as you know quite well, is not to be daunted by any sneering criticism of any place. Wherever he may go he will try to do his best—no man can do more—but whatever may happen to Weihaiwei, there is one thing that will never happen to myself, I will never forget my old associations here. As Horace says, *Cælum non animum mutant qui trans mare currunt*—I may change my climate, gentlemen, but the cold climate of Weihaiwei will never chill my warm affections for Hongkong and the many friends I have made here. (Applause.)

The proceedings terminated with three cheers for the ladies who had attended the assembly.

The souvenir in each case took the form of a silver quaich, or Highland drinking-cup, set upon silver stands of handsome design, consisting of four dragons. On each of the quaichs were inscribed the lines:—

He stood for the land of the blue-bell and the heather,
And passed on the cry of "Scotland for ever."

The inscriptions were as follows:—

"1894 to 1895. David Gillies, Esq., Past President of the Hongkong S. Andrew's Society. From the members. Hongkong, 28th March, 1902."

"1895 to 1896. Fullarton Henderson, Esq., Past President of the Hongkong S. Andrew's Society. From the members. Hongkong, 28th March, 1902."

"1896 to 1897. The Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, C.M.G., Past President of the Hongkong S. Andrew's Society. From the members. Hongkong, 28th March, 1902."

DISASTROUS FIRE IN QUEEN'S ROAD.

ENORMOUS DAMAGE.

One of the most disastrous fires the Colony has seen for about twenty-four years broke out shortly after 2 a.m. on the 29th ult. Beginning in a Chinese shop at 286, Queen's Road Central, it obtained such a complete hold and spread so rapidly that no less than forty-one houses were utterly destroyed before the outbreak was decisively checked. The area covered by the fire is so extensive that it seems remarkable how the Brigade were able to cope with it at all; from Queen's Road, both sides, to the back of the buildings fronting Hollywood Road the scene is one of utter ruin, and where the houses have not crashed down are to be seen but the blackened skeletons of what were once habitable dwellings. Lower Lascar Row almost to Jervoise Street has been practically eliminated, and Upper Lascar Row is in a condition almost as bad. The heat from the burning debris, heaped tons upon tons, was intense hours after the fire was overcome, and must have been unbearable at the height of the conflagration, thus adding another serious difficulty to the already almost superhuman task of the firemen, who had to shield their faces as best they could from the fierce heat, and occasionally to turn the water from the hose upon themselves. From Queen's Road to Hollywood Road the frameworks of ruined buildings stand out in tottering relief against the heaps of burning material piled up on all sides, and in their extremely shaky condition constitute themselves a danger that is not to be minimised or lightly regarded, for they may come tumbling down at any moment, with dire results.

It was about twenty minutes past two when the first note of alarm was sounded, and soon the Fire Brigade, under Mr. F. J. Badely, A.C.S.P., and Mr. A. Mackie, D.A.C.S.P., was on its way to the conflagration, which, on arrival, was seen to be so serious that the firemen and engine from Wanchai were summoned. One floating engine and three ordinary engines were eventually got in readiness, and here the first difficulty presented itself. The water, of course, was cut off from the mains, which were perfectly dry, and to have it turned on and the mains filled would occupy at least twenty minutes. In this dilemma the utility of the floating engine manifested itself. Lines of hose were rigged up all the way from the Praya, a distance of six hundred yards, and through these the floating engine pumped sea-water at the rate of three thousand gallons per minute into large canvas tanks placed at the side of the three fire engines, which in turn discharged the water at a speed of three hundred gallons to the minute; working at the highest pressure, these engines pumped the water through two hundred yards of hose to a height of eighty feet. From these figures it will be seen that once a supply of water was obtained it was easy to keep continuous streams pouring on the flames, but the operation occupied time in its performance, and quite half-an-hour elapsed before the actual fight against the destroying element commenced. By that time, fanned by a vigorous wind, the outbreak had assumed alarming proportions, and nothing but patient, watchful vigilance and the utmost persistence in the prosecution of a disheartening task was responsible for the victory that, after hours of weary work, ultimately rested with the firemen. About five o'clock their numbers were reinforced by a detachment of the Naval Fire Brigade, under Commander G. W. Dawes, which gave all the aid possible; its efforts, however, were unfortunately limited through the incapacity of the naval fire-engine to pump the water to an effective height. By seven o'clock it was realised that the desired check had been applied, and that all immediate danger of a further spreading of the outbreak was past.

A survey then became possible, and it was seen that the fire had covered an area of quite two acres. This is the biggest outbreak since 1878, when Pottinger Street, Graham Street, and Cochrane Street were completely devastated, and burned steadily for a week. A pawnshop at the junction of Hollywood Road and Ladder Street had a very narrow escape.

The house adjoining was gutted, and the pawnshop was only saved by the playing of two jets of fresh water on the premises. Had the fire spread in this direction, it would probably have included the Taipingshan district and been out of reach of the fire engines, in which event the result can readily be imagined. As it was, forty-one shops and houses were demolished and four of the latter damaged beyond repair. A list of these shops and houses shows that in Queen's Road Central Nos. 280 to 290, and 292 and 294, were gutted, whilst No. 279 was partly destroyed. Eleven houses in Lower Lascar Row were ruined—Nos. 1 to 8 and 12 and 14, whilst No. 9 suffered serious damage. In Upper Lascar Row fourteen houses were destroyed—Nos. 1 to 14; No. 16 also suffered, but to a less extent. In Ladder Street the damage was confined to three dwellings, Nos. 2, 4, and 6, all of which were burnt out; No. 22, Circular Pathway was partly damaged. It is a remarkable fact that not a single injury was sustained, the inhabitants of the affected area clearing out in time.

So far, the total damage has not been estimated, but it must be considerably over a million dollars. Only a few insurance claims have come in, and these show that the companies chiefly concerned are Chinese. The shop in which the fire originated, No. 286, Queen's Road Central, was occupied by a gold and silversmith, and was insured with Chinese firms for \$6,300; the two floors situated immediately above this shop were used by a Japanese piece-goods merchant, who has a claim on the Hung On Insurance Company for \$11,500. No. 282, Queen's Road Central is insured with a Hamburg firm for \$1,400, and No. 290 with Chinese and other firms to the extent of \$25,000; of this sum the London and Lancashire is accountable for \$2,000, the Atlas for \$2,000, and a German firm for \$8,000. The amount of insurance on No. 292, Queen's Road Central totals \$25,000, and in this sum the Sun Company is involved to the extent of \$8,000. No. 11, Upper Lascar Row has a claim for \$1,000 on the Chun On firm, and No. 12 on the Union Assurance Society for \$12,000. No other claims have as yet been received.

The cause of the fire remains a mystery, and all that is definitely known is that it originated in No. 286, Queen's Road Central. A little light is thrown on its incidence by the statement of the people living on the floor above; they assert that they were awakened by smoke and flames coming through the flooring, and believe that they proceeded from the cock'off of the silversmith's shop, where an oil lamp is said to have been kept burning.

A strong force of firemen is still present on the spot, and streams of water are being poured on the burning debris, which has completely blocked Queen's Road Central. Some collapses of gutted houses have occurred, and others are sure to follow.

The present may not be an inopportune moment for saying a word on behalf of the firemen in regard to their pay. The Brigade is recruited from the Police Force, and the men receive only \$9 a month extra for their services as firemen. This sum they regard as altogether inadequate, and have already made representations to that effect to their superiors, who pointed out that as they were merely acting officials nothing could be done, at least for the present. Another objection is that whilst as policemen they are paid at the rate of three shillings to the dollar, as firemen they are paid in ordinary currency.

The *Deutsch Asiatische Warte* says:—The number of merchant steamers calling at Tsingtao during the last quarter of 1901 amounted to 56 of 60,769 tons, against 71 steamers with 88,562 tons during the same period in 1900. This decrease is explained through the non-appearance of transport steamers which called at Tsingtao on their way to the north in 1900. For the first time the French flag was represented at Tsingtao by a sailing vessel of 1,454 tons. The Customs Revenue for the last quarter of 1901 amounted to Hk. Tls. 33,856.8.1.3 against 24,849.6.4.5 for the last quarter 1900, an increase of 37 1/2 per cent.

THE HEALTH OF HONGKONG.

In the course of the day ending at noon on the 31st ult. the fourth case of plague this year was discovered in No. 13 Health District, the victim, a Chinese, being found dead in Shaukiwan Road.

During the past week, 17 cases of cholera were reported in the Colony, 11 in Victoria, and 6 in the Harbour. There was one European case imported from Canton, while 6 of the Chinese cases were on the s.s. *Hong Moh*.

The other instances of communicable disease reported last week were:—5 of enteric fever, the sufferers being 3 Chinese, one Japanese, and one American from the *Monadnock*; and 5 of small-pox, all Chinese and all fatal. Four of the latter were in the City limits.

The statement that the *Hong Moh*, on board which steamer cholera has developed, has departed for Amoy, her port of destination, is incorrect. The *Hong Moh* is still in quarantine, we were informed on the 1st inst., and the date of her release is uncertain. The steamer, as already reported, is owned by a Chinese firm in Singapore, and put into this harbour on the 28th ult. on her way to Amoy with about 900 Chinese passengers on board. She was flying the yellow flag, and Dr. Swan, who at once boarded her, learnt that six cases of Asiatic cholera had occurred, all of them with fatal results. The ship was disinfected immediately, and the water on board was changed and other precautions taken to prevent the spread of the disease. Since the steamer's arrival seven more cases of the disease have broken out, making in all thirteen cases seven of which have terminated fatally and six been removed to the plague hospital at Kennedytown.

The British steamer *Cheung Chau*, which reported two Chinese dead from cholera, has been released from quarantine and proceeded to Tientsin.—*Daily Press*, 2nd April.

THE VOLUNTEERS AND THE CORONATION.

Ever since the idea was mooted of sending home a contingent of Volunteers to represent the Colony at the Coronation, a perfect whirl of excitement has in many instances marked the everyday life of members of the corps who have sent in their names in connection with the scheme, and rumours as persistent as they were unfounded were freely circulated. The latest is to the effect that something like thirty Volunteers have been selected to form the contingent, and about double that number are certain they are included in the selection; some have even gone the length of making preparations for their departure! To add another to the many contradictions that have already been published in this connection, it may be stated that on enquiry yesterday we were informed that no arrangements have been completed for the despatch of the contingent, nor are there likely to be for two or three days to come. The only other information obtainable was that about twenty names had been deleted from the list, but what names these were or what had been retained we were unable to ascertain. Everything, apparently, is being kept quiet by the authorities, and beyond the assurance already given that nothing has been decided upon they at present decline to go.

DEPARTURE OF COMMODORE POWELL.

Commodore Francis Powell, C.B., R.N., left Hongkong on the 2nd inst. by the s.s. *Empress of China* for home after having been for two years in command of the Naval Dockyard here. He was accompanied by his wife and daughter, and a large gathering of friends attended the party to the steamer to bid farewell. Commodore Powell has made himself very popular during his sojourn in the Colony, and leaves many well-wishers behind him. Under his auspices great projects have been commenced in connection with the Dockyard: at the ceremony attending the inauguration of the work of the extension scheme he expressed regret, if we remember aright, that he would not be able to see the consummation of his labours. But though he be denied that privilege, Commodore Powell has still the satisfaction of knowing that

the scheme has taken form and shape under his eye and direction—has passed from the nebulous to the concrete state. He was justly popular with his officers and men. His interest in sport of all kinds was keen. With the various institutions connected with the Service of which he is a distinguished member, he identified himself closely and tendered them help with a generous hand. The Commodore also took a deep interest in church matters and was a member of the Church Body. He joined the Navy as a cadet in 1862, and, after passing through the various grades of service was gazetted Captain in 1889. His C.B. decoration he obtained for services in the Benin River. Mrs. Powell has equally with her husband enjoyed great popularity among residents in the Colony during her presence here: her "At Homes" were always looked forward to with zest and remembered with pleasure. Commodore and Mrs. Powell leave two married daughters behind them in Hongkong.

PRESENTATION TO REV. R. F. COBBOLD.

At a representative gathering on the 2nd inst. of the choir of St. John's Cathedral, held in Mr. A. G. Ward's rooms, the Rev. R. F. Cobbold, M.A., was made the recipient of a handsome souvenir on the occasion of his retirement from the chaplaincy, a position he has held for the last ten years. The reverend gentleman departed from the Colony on the 5th inst. by the *Kumano Maru*, and he leaves behind him numerous friends. His relations with the choir of the Cathedral, in especial, have ever been of the most cordial nature: it was typical of the good feelings which subsist that the presentation was subscribed for by every member of the choir; even the choir-boys were enthusiastic about it. The souvenir took the form of a blackwood writing-desk with a silver plate bearing the following inscription:—"Presented to the Rev. R. F. Cobbold, M.A., on his retirement, by the Choir of St. John's Cathedral, Hongkong, Easter, 1902." To the Hon. Secretary fell the pleasant duty of formally handing over the memento. In a neat speech he referred to the cordial relations which had always existed between Mr. Cobbold and the choir and to the valuable help he had extended to them in their schemes for the advancement of their work. Mr. Cobbold replied in fitting terms, stating that he would look upon the handsome gift which had just been made him as one of his most valuable mementoes of his stay in Hongkong. It should be mentioned that Mr. Cobbold was at the same time presented with a photograph of the Choir.

PRESENTATION TO MR. P. A. COX.

We have received from Mr. F. Maitland, Acting Secretary and President *pro-tem.* of the H.K.C.C., the following letter which was addressed to Mr. P. A. Cox, former Secretary of the Cricket Club, who left the Colony by the P. & O. s.s. *Oriental* on the 29th ult. for home. Mr. Maitland asks us to publish the letter and to state that the subscription-lists, limited to \$2 per member or naval subscriber, may be found at the H.K.C.C. pavilion and the Hongkong Club and will shortly be closed. The following is the letter:—

Hongkong, 29th March.

DEAR SIR,—It is my pleasing duty to inform you that the Hongkong Cricket Club are making you a small presentation on your departure for home as a memento of your past valuable services as Secretary of the Club and more particularly in regard to the onerous duties you so well filled in connection with the Cricket Interport Week in November, 1901. The Hon. Treasurer will shortly forward you a demand draft and the members of the H.K.C.C. would like you to purchase something with it to commemorate your term of office as secretary.—Yours very truly,

F. MAITLAND,

Actg. Secy. and President *pro-tem.*,
Hongkong Cricket Club.

P. A. Cox, Esq.

MR A. G. WARD'S SUBSCRIPTION CONCERT.

Mr. A. G. Ward gave the second of his two subscription concerts in the City Hall on the 1st inst. His first, at which the principal production was "The Daisy Chain," was a sufficient proof that the music-lovers of the Colony only require to have something attractive put before them in order to induce their attention, notwithstanding the charge of apathy which is habitually brought against them. "The Daisy Chain" evoked a good deal of enthusiasm, and rightly so. It is a piece which reflects the greatest possible credit upon its author, Liza Lehmann. She has in a peculiar degree developed the envied faculty of being able to collate and set to music the gems of our literary collection. In the musical world Liza Lehmann is a name to conjure with. We have referred before to the difficulties with which Mr. Ward has had to contend in bringing out such pieces as he was able to present last night. In the case of "In a Persian Garden," it is now a long time since it was presented, but it had the advantage of having as its exponents the quartet consisting of Mrs. Mudie, Mrs. Lane, Mr. G. P. Lammert and Mr. Alec Marsh. On this occasion the personnel of the company was rather altered. At the same time there was no alteration for the worse. The soloists were Mrs. Mudie, Mrs. Gordon, Mr. G. P. Lammert and Mr. W. E. Schmidt. With the exception of the last-named, the different singers must be well known in the Colony; but Mr. Schmidt is not quite unknown, as he appeared along with Messrs. Marsh and Lammert in a trio at a Volunteer promenade concert a few years ago. Mr. Schmidt has a well-trained bass voice: his low notes especially are excellent. It is rather interesting to observe that all of the male vocalists who appeared last night were pupils of Mr. Alec Marsh, who, by the way, will probably give a concert here before leaving for home, as he shortly intends to do. The representation last evening of "In a Persian Garden" was, however, fully equal to its previous appearances. It might be invidious to single out any of the soloists for particular mention. It is a pleasure all the same to be able to say that on no occasion has the piece got a better exposition than it got last evening at the hands of Mrs. Mudie, Mrs. Gordon, Messrs. Lammert and Schmidt. The production of one such piece as "In a Persian Garden" would naturally be considered to be quite a sufficient undertaking for one night by most men. Mr. Ward, however, does not seem to be hampered by the ordinary trammels of musical tradition. His programme last night contained a double charge, so to speak. At his last concert, we had the pleasure of hearing for the first time in the Colony, Liza Lehmann's "The Daisy Chain," a pretty, tuneful piece, of which we expressed the hope at the time we should like to hear a repetition. That hope, we take it, was shared by many others here. At any rate Mr. Ward made it part of his programme last night and with the happiest effects. It is not very long ago since we heard "The Daisy Chain" and it seems to us that it is one of those pieces which become the more entrancing the more it is heard. Mr. Ward still adheres to the arrangement by which he slightly changes the order of the authors in the sense that a quartet is transposed so as to give a more imposing finish to the whole; and there can be no doubt that Mr. Ward's musical good taste has been anything but misguided in this instance. The slight change he has instituted here has had the happiest possible results. Last evening he had the advantage of the presence of the four soloists who appeared originally in "The Daisy Chain." These were Mrs. D. E. Brown (who, though suffering from indisposition very kindly fulfilled her engagement), Miss Ramsay, Mr. G. P. Lammert and Mr. C. H. P. Hay. All of these artistes acquitted themselves with so much credit that here again it would be invidious to differentiate in the employment of terms: it is sufficient to say that the soloists rendered to a nicety the music and rendered in an eminent degree the spirit of the work. They had in a manner an advantage over the artists who appeared in "In a Persian Garden,"

because of the more light and playful spirit which pervades "The Daisy Chain." As a matter of fact, however, nothing but praise can be bestowed upon the idea of presenting together two such pieces. They are so essentially different in character that their very juxtaposition lends a zest to them: the light and playful movements of "The Daisy Chain" is beautifully set off against the deeper, more stately music of "In a Persian Garden." That their combination was appreciated was very well demonstrated by the hearty applause which greeted them last evening. Of the whole concert it must be said that it reflected the greatest possible credit upon Mr. Ward. Besides accompanying the two pieces he also gave two pianoforte solos—Schumann's "Arabesque" and Scharwenka's "Polish Dances," as well as playing a duet with Mr. G. Grimbale. A feature of the entertainment was the violin playing of Mrs. Ough who made her debut as a performer in the Colony at Mr. Ward's last concert and gained golden opinions then. In her selections last night she was equally successful. Her pieces were Vieuxtemps's "Reverie" and Wieniawski's "Legende," two numbers which are greatly desiderated of the amateur and which, we are sure, seldom got a more artistic rendition than was given them last night: as an encore to her last solo the instrumentalist gave a sonata with muted strings. Mrs. Ough is a distinct acquisition to the musical life of the Colony. It will be learned with regret that Mrs. D. E. Brown, the talented vocalist, leaves the Colony by the *Empress of China* to-day.

An unfortunate incident of the night's entertainment was that some of the audience were so ill-mannered as to talk very audibly while Mr. Ward was playing his solos; otherwise the concert passed off as successfully as the promoter could have wished, and it was particularly gratifying to see that the punctuality which Mr. Ward observed in commencing his programme was not spoiled by late arrivals.

THE DALLAS COMPANY.

It would be interesting to know to what extent the attendance at the Theatre Royal on the 27th ult. was affected by the rather questionable fame which has, rightly or wrongly, preceded the coming of *Zaza*. Certain it is that the Theatre was packed as it has not been before during the Dallas season; the bookings, we understand, constituted a record for a touring company performance, and many were unable to gain admittance who wished to do so. On the whole, *Zaza* appeared to appeal to the fancy of the audience, and there is no reason why such should not be the case. It is essentially French in its tone and as regards its atmosphere; in motive it is germane to *The Second Mrs. Tanqueray*. Against the play which was produced last evening various charges have been brought of suggestiveness, and even impropriety. It is only the supersensitive purist who would advance or uphold such a proposition. There is present, of course, as the keynote of the whole plot that relationship between man and woman which forms the ground-work of the "problem play" of recent years and which has laid that sort of plays open to endless criticism and cavil. It is needless to pursue the discussion at this time of day. As to the allied allegation of suggestiveness, there is little or no room for the charge. *Zaza* is a good drama, beautiful in the play it affords to the human emotions, spirited and vigorous in its development. There are really only two strong parts in the play—those of *Zaza* and her lover Bernard Dufresne. Mrs. Dallas took the title-role last evening. Her personation of the impetuous, passionate woman who lives only for the day was real and convincing. She acted with reserved power throughout, and showed great dramatic strength in the violent scene with her lover at the end of Act IV. Mr. Henry Dallas was the Dufresne. It is not a part in which his abilities appear to the best advantage; on occasion however he evinced a true grasp of the spirit of the character, particularly so in the scene just referred to. Of the remaining members of the cast, Mr. D. Munro made a striking Cascart and Miss Cissy Fitzgerald made a spirited appearance in the ungracious part of Florianne. As Madame Bonne, Miss

Isabel Vernon acted with her accustomed success. The piece, as we have said, was very well received.

Notwithstanding the heat, there was a crowded house at the Theatre on the 29th ult. to witness *What Happened to Jones*. Mr. Dallas could not have been improved on as Jones, and Mr. P. Knight as Ebenezer Goodley and Mr. H. Godwin as Dr. Anthony Goodley were equally good. Miss Marie Arnold played Mrs. Goodley excellently, as did also Miss Isabel Vernon the part of Alvina Starlight—a maiden lady very much in love with Dr. Goodley. Miss Nellie Curtis was charming as the vivacious ward Cissie. The comedy was followed by one of the best—if not the best—variety concerts ever given in Hongkong, nearly all the company taking part. Every item was encored.

The Sign of the Cross as played by the Dallas Co. on the 31st ult. was hardly up to the level of the Company's previous achievements in Hongkong; especially the scene in Marcus's palace—where Mercia is subjected to the derision of his inebriated guests—which, played by the original company, is one of the strongest scenes in the piece. The part immediately following, in which Marcus swears he will have Mercia—body and soul—was very striking, however. Mrs. Dallas's interpretation of Mercia was quite in keeping with her reputation. She was delicate, refined, gentle, but behind all the soft womanliness she brought to bear on the character was delightful to witness. Marcus Superbus was brilliantly acted by Mr. Dallas, and showed how versatile are his accomplishments. The Berenice of Miss Marie Arnold was especially good, and Miss Isabel Vernon sang and acted well as the jealous woman. Miss Eva Clark took the part of Stephanus, which was very effective. Of the other characters we must not forget to mention Mr. Percival Knight as Nero, Mr. Phil Carlton as Tigellinus, and Mr. Duncan Munro as Philodemus.

On Tuesday the Company produced *Florodora*, a musical comedy in two acts. Mr. Dallas as usual scored a distinct success in the character of Professor Tweedlepunch: his humorous passages kept the whole house in roars of laughter, and, however one may look upon his gags, there is no doubt about the efficacy of them as regards their mirth-provoking qualities. The part of Tweedlepunch is eminently suited to his comedian abilities, and it is enough to say that he made the most of it and gained the utmost approbation of the crowded house in doing so. Mr. Harold Godwin was well suited in the character of Cyrus Gilfain. In the rôle of Frank Abercromb, Mr. Phil Carlton had more to do perhaps than he has had on any previous occasion during the Dallas season, and the result was such that we cannot but have regrets that he was not seen earlier in parts more suited to his versatile talents. He was in good voice in his various songs and acted with vigour all through. Mr. Percival Knight as Arthur Donegal met with well-deserved approbation: he seems to improve on acquaintance, and last night's audience certainly showed that that was their sentiment too. Miss Isabel Vernon made the part of Lady Holyhood as entertaining as that rôle can possibly be with her remarkably fine singing and her capital acting, and the Angela Gilfain of Miss Nellie Curtis cannot be too highly extolled. As regards the subsidiary parts, mention cannot be omitted of the charming way in which Miss Cissy Fitzgerald filled the rôle of Maurice Lowe. Last, but not least, there remains to be chronicled the splendid manner in which Miss Marie Arnold fulfilled the duties imposed upon her in the character of Dolores. Other parts were suitably allotted. As regards the setting of the piece, it is sufficient to say that it was equal to the high standard which characterises all the Dallas productions and was generally admired.

So successful was the Dallas Company's performance of *H.M.S. Irresponsible* on the 18th ult. that a full house to greet the play's reappearance was a practical certainty, and it need only be said that expectations were not disappointed, an excellent audience welcoming the amusing comedy. We have so recently dealt with our visitors' presentation of *H.M.S. Irresponsible* that it is unnecessary to go into details again. Mr. Dallas himself, in the part "created" by Arthur Roberts, and Mr. Percival

Knight once more carried the audience away, the latter's two songs in the second act being more appreciated than any other item during the night. Among others we must mention in particular Miss Isabel Vernon, Miss Cissy Fitzgerald, Mr. Harold Godwin, and the four midshipmen.

Of the light musical plays in the above company's repertoire we think *The Belle of New York* is the one in which they are most at home. Differing from the usual style of musical comedy, it has more of the nature of a burlesque, and abounds in terpsichorean varieties. *The Belle* is also replete with Americanisms and other eccentricities, which give it a "go" and maintain the fun from the rise to the fall of the curtain. Last evening, when the comedy was replayed before a crowded house, there was not a dull moment, and, as evidenced by the hearty applause and encores, the audience highly appreciated not only the vocal efforts but also the histrionic abilities of the company. Miss Marie Arnold as Violet Gray, both in her character of the demure Salvation lass and later on in her rendering of "At ze naughty Folies Bergères," acted excellently. The Fifi of Miss Nellie Curtis was charming, and in her dialogue and singing the pronounced French accent was consistently maintained. Misses Fitzgerald as Cora Angelique, Daisy Albert as Kissie Fitzgerald, and Isabel Vernon as Pansie Prym were especially good. Mr. Henry Dallas in the character of Ichabod Bronson was well to the fore and very funny. In the part of Harry Bronson, Mr. Percival Knight ably acquitted himself, and the Doc. Smiffkins of Mr. Harold Godwin could hardly have been improved upon.

On Friday the Dallas Company produced for the third time this season the old favourite *The Geisha*. The piece went off very well, the principal songs were received with frequent applause and persistent demands for encores. There was not a dull moment during the whole evening. The Mimosa San of Miss Nellie Curtis, the Molly Seamore of Miss Eva Clark and the Wun Hi of Mr. Dallas deserve special mention. Miss Cissy Fitzgerald's dancing was very taking. We noticed that one of the best songs in the piece, "Star of my Soul," was again omitted, which proved a disappointment to the audience: Mr. Knight, however, substituted another song.

CONCERT ON H.M.S. "GOLIATH."

On the 27th ult. a musical entertainment was given on board in commemoration of the date of commission, two years ago, a most enjoyable evening being spent. The accompaniments were played by Messrs. Harrison, Holz, Surrey and Reynolds. Mr. J. O'Neill rendered "O, Teddy come back to me now" in his usual appreciative manner. "The Dearest Spot on Earth" was sung by Mr. Dellar. "Rooms to Let" and the "Girl I Left at Home," a comic and serio-comic song, by Mr. Berry created a marked impression by his forcible, earnest, and convincing manner. Mr. Northrop, who possesses a fine voice, contributed "The Diver" to the manifest delight of the audience. Mr. Montague's rendering of "The Broken Tie" had a most pleasing effect. Mr. Roberts substituted for his promised song of "Shipmates," "Give us one of your old songs, George," the chorus being sung with great enthusiasm, followed by Mr. Goodsell with "Postponed" and "Khaki" with conspicuous success. The heartiest reception was, however, reserved for Mr. Armitage, who kept his audience in a continuous state of merriment by his humorous songs entitled "I've never been there before" and "I'm in Love"—a welcome spirit of drollery being introduced. A new feature in the shape of a "Gibby" selection by the same performer caused some amusement owing to the novelty of the display. "Rolling home to Merry England" by Mr. Shaw met with a hearty response. The "King" terminated a well chosen and unusually attractive programme. Congratulations are due to Mr. W. Fawcett, as conductor, for his commendable and zealous efforts which afforded amusement to the ship's company.

The capture is announced from Manila of General Mariano Noriel and staff. General Malvar's official papers were among the spoil.

A NEW CLUB-HOUSE.

The new Club-house of the Catholic Union was formally inaugurated on the 31st ult. by the Right Rev. Bishop Piazzoli, the President of the institution. Through the kindness of His Lordship the building at the Glenealy Ravine, known as the Roman Catholic Orphanage, was enlarged and much altered, a new story having been added for the accommodation of this Club. The inaugural ceremony was imposing, and was attended by a fair number of ladies and gentlemen, including Sr. Conselheiro Romano, the Portuguese Consul-General, who also unveiled a portrait of Bishop Piazzoli. Sr. Romano was then unanimously elected as vice-president. In the evening the committee and members gave an "At Home," which was numerously attended by their friends and which proved very enjoyable and successful. A sort of an impromptu concert was got up in which Mrs. Guedes, Miss Edith Carvalho, gentlemen amateurs and an amateur orchestra took part. Mrs. Guedes and Miss Carvalho sang exceedingly well and were warmly applauded for their songs. Mr. Emil Danenberg presided at the piano, in his usual masterly style, and Mr. F. P. de V. Soares delivered the inaugural address eloquently. The Club possesses an excellent and well-ventilated hall with a nice little stage at one end lit by gas, a billiard-room and a reading-room. Besides billiards, chess and draughts the Club also provides two tables for the much-talked-of game of Ping-pong, and later it is the intention of the committee to add a gymnasium, which will prove a boon to the younger members of the institution, for whom this Club is specially intended. The arrangements internally are first rate and reflect the greatest credit on the working committee, especially on Mr. J. M. Alves, the indefatigable and courteous honorary secretary, who has spent a good deal of his leisure hours in the improvement of the Club. We learn that the members will put on a short operetta entitled *Magic Melody* on the 12th instant, proceeds of which will go towards defraying the heavy expenses incurred by the Club in getting into their new premises.

PAKHOI.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Pakhoi, 24th March.

THE KWANGSI TROUBLES.

Owing to the rebellion in Kwangsi, troops have been pouring in from Canton lately to an unusual extent. The Chinese gunboat *Fuk-po* brought some five hundred braves on the 15th instant, and the *Chuntung* and the *Kwongkang* one hundred and two hundred men respectively on the 16th instant. It is said that more men are proceeding this way to the disturbed province. The eight hundred men who have already arrived in the three gunboats all left on the 19th instant for their destination, which is stated to be Nanning.

The French cruiser *Kersaint* arrived here on the 18th instant and left for Hoihow on the evening of the 23rd inst.

A NEW OFFICIAL.

The new magistrate, Tchong Chun, appointed to succeed Kao Siak Chio, arrived here the week before last. The usual ceremony of handing over the seal of office was performed on the 17th instant, and Kao left for Limchow on the morning of the 21st. As he was proceeding along the principal street, a great number of firecrackers were let off by the shopkeepers. The late magistrate was very much liked by both foreigners and Chinese for his genial character and for his ability in keeping this town undisturbed and well protected during most troublous times. The new magistrate, I understand, is a Manchurian.

ACTION AGAINST PIRATES.

The Chinese gunboat *Onlan*, with four improvised war-junks in convoy, left the harbour on the 15th instant for the purpose of punishing or driving out the now so numerous hordes of pirates who infest these waters to the detriment of trade. It was intended that these vessels should cruise backward and forward between this port and the Leichow peninsula, searching every village along the coast. The *Onlan* and one of the junks returned to port on the evening of the

23rd for coal and provisions, and also to bring a few small piratical junks which they found abandoned at different places, the pirates evidently having deserted them on the approach of the little fleet, as nothing was found in the junks. The commander of the *Onlan*, who is a man of some means, had to raise or recruit one hundred men, at his private expense, to join him in the present expedition.

THE WEATHER.

The weather has been as dry as dust, with a bright sunshine, for some time past, without any visible sign of rain, which is as much wanted here as elsewhere. The thermometer was ranging from 75 deg. to 80 deg. in the shade, with a southerly breeze blowing, a few days previous to the 22nd instant. On the 23rd instant, however, the wind changed to N.N.E., when the thermometer suddenly fell some 15 deg. Although the sky looks gloomy, still there has been no rain. Water in the wells is getting lower and lower; what little there is to be got is impregnated with clay owing to the chalky strata composing the foundation of the whole town. It is to be wondered at that we still enjoy immunity from an epidemic of some sort, such as generally accompanies a water-famine.

Pakhoi, 26th March.

MORE TROOPS.

The *Kwong Kam* arrived yesterday with 200 more soldiers and a few ponies. These men are going to join their comrades despatched on the 19th instant for Kwangsi. Movements of Chinese gun-vessels or transports in the harbour are of daily, almost of hourly occurrence. We have always one or two of them with us. The *Onlan*, *Kong Kam* and *Kwong Kung* are now here.

We should like to see some foreign men-of-war here occasionally, especially at present. With the exception of the French, we seldom see European men-of-war in our harbour.

The French cruiser *Kersaint* arrived again from Hoihow yesterday afternoon, and left about 7 p.m., with the French Consul, Monsieur L. Flayelle and family, and Dr. Abatucci on board for Haiphong.

THE EFFECT OF THE KWANGSI REBELLION.

Although we are within a short distance of Nanning and almost in touch with the present disturbed area, I do not think we need fear that the rebellion will extend as far as this port. It will, of course, materially affect the trade, considering that this is the emporium of a good portion of Kwangsi as far as foreign goods are concerned.

ROUGH WEATHER.

Since the 23rd instant the weather has been boisterous in the extreme; a strong N.E. gale has been blowing for a few days, accompanied by a drizzling rain—so much so that the *Hailan*, which arrived on the 22nd instant, could not work for want of lighters, which have all gone to shelter. The *Hoihao*, arrived yesterday, is also in the same predicament. With the *Hae*, which arrived this morning, we have three of Marty's fleet in the harbour to-day.

AN EVIL PRIEST.

It is not often that we hear of a Buddhist priest losing his head under the executioner's knife. This extraordinary occurrence took place in Linchow on the 16th inst. This sham disciple of Buddha was living in Leng-shan formerly, under the pretence of following his peaceful and holy profession. Not long ago, however, he took a fancy to a young girl there, the only daughter of an old woman; and by incantations, it is said, or some such other means, the girl became so attached to him that in spite of strong remonstrance on the part of her mother she was determined to follow the priest at all hazards. The couple took into their heads one day to leave Lengshan for this port and thence for Hongkong. The mother, however, was following them all the time. The Buddhist previously exchanged his robe for that of a layman, wearing also a queue, of course. After reaching Hongkong the mother obtained some assistance there or probably informed the authorities about the matter with the result that the mother and daughter were safely placed on board a steamer for this port, the Buddhist in the meantime having made himself scarce. No sooner had the two women come here than he also appeared upon the scene, to the great disgust of the mother. Through the information and assistance of some

one here the local magistrate caused the arrest of the priest on the 14th inst., but not before he made a strong resistance. In the struggle his false queue was detached from his head. After the preliminary investigations held on the same afternoon by the local magistrate, it was resolved to send the prisoner to be tried by the sub-prefect at Linchow, where he was also accused of being in league with the highway robbers as an informer and was consequently sentenced to be beheaded. The sentence was carried out on the 16th instant, two days after the arrest—rather short work.

Speaking of executions in Linchow, they are of almost daily occurrence now but they fail to deter others from lawlessness, as robbery, accompanied by murder and violence, is as rife as ever.

TIENTSIN.

Tientsin, 18th March.

A LITTLE LAND DISPUTE.

which may yet possibly assume international proportions and become a big "question," has arisen in the French Concession. In the autumn of 1900 the American Methodist Mission purchased some small odd bits of real property adjoining their compound on a piece of neutral land adjoining the Gallic Settlement; and, in the absence of the usual land transfer agency in the 'City' took the precaution of passing the whole business through and registering it in the American Consulate. Early in 1901, or possibly late in 1900, but at any rate subsequent to thus acting, the French Consular Authorities resolved to include the tract of land in their Concession and by Consular proclamation did so. This proclamation made no pretence of buying the land generally in the Concession, but practically confiscated it from the Chinese owners. The latter had no option in the matter but had to clear out *volens volens*; though be it noted it is possible they may yet get some money from the fund which has accrued from the subsequent sale of their land to foreigners. The Consular Authorities at the same time followed the Russian precedent, and made a retrospective declaration that they would recognise no sales as legal which were made after June 1900. The object of this, and a very legitimate object too, was of course to stop bogus transactions by post hoc land jobbing with the dispossessed owners.

Now, in consequence of the extension of the French Concession, all the British and American Missions have become isolated, or rather surrounded; and for a long time negotiations have been going on for them to become part and parcel of the municipally governed area. Before they finally decide to go in with the French, they are eager to have a thorough understanding as to their existing rights. They will not agree to interference with their buildings, or to any compulsory cession of their property for road-making, etc., at prices arbitrarily fixed by the Consul. In addition to this, the Americans are stipulating for a recognition of their right to the above property. The French Consul is willing to recognise the title, if they join in with his Concession; but absolutely refuses to do so if they will not so join. To uphold his claim that the odd lots referred to above are French, he has sent men to collect rates, etc., and has interdicted building operations in progress.

In this action the French have however, forgotten to reckon with Uncle Sam, and with his quiet, but resolute representative here. Mr. J. W. Ragsdale, U. S. Consul, has intimated to the French that the deeds were duly registered in his Consulate and that he considers the transaction quite regular. He has gone further. He has raised the American flag on the disputed land, and has told the French that he regards it as American property. The French Consul said he would hoist the tricolour, though he has not yet done so. He has, however, sent a police patrol, and has stopped the native workmen from going on with the building operations.

The Missions are doubtless in a curious position. Their only access from their houses and property is by the Taku Road, which has, with an aggressiveness truly amazing, been claimed as French, though it is the great artery for traffic into the Tientsin City; longer tracts of this thoroughfare pass through the British

and German Concessions, but neither of these Powers has thought of making such a preposterous claim as the French. Meantime the land all about the Missions is being filled up to a higher level; drainage is consequently becoming for the Missions more difficult; and if the claim about the Taku Road is made good, there will be little chance of the missionaries ever getting a water supply laid on. There is no doubt that the French, if they choose to be disagreeable, can bring all sorts of pressure on the recalcitrants.

In the meantime, it is a good thing that public attention has been drawn to the whole affair. Very curious things have for a long time been going on in the French Concession under the dominancy of the Consular authorities, things which, in most people's opinion, would not be tolerated if accurately known in Paris. The French are the very last people in the world to tolerate injustice in any shape or form, and if the keen-scented Parisian Press once gets holds of the snappy oppressions and petty tyrannies that have been perpetrated under their officials' aegis there will be a great public washing of dirty linen. There are cases where Chinese owners have been compelled to pay rent for their own property and have after all been forced to leave it; and truly, it is chiefly the horridly unscrupulous conduct of the French Municipal Council (wholly under the Consular thumb) which has been the main deterrent to the British and American missionaries in their unwillingness to join the French.—*N. C. Daily News*.

PEKING.

Peking, 18th March.

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING.

An incident occurred a few days ago—the first of the mood—which has brought the Italian Legation into ridicule. The Baroness Romano, wife of the Italian *chargé d'affaires* with others was riding across the famous stone bridge over the Canal, between the British Legation and the Imperial city wall when a boy's device of a stone tied to a string, such as is used to bring another's kite down, was let loose in her direction. The *chargé d'affaires* characterising it as an assault, straightway complained to the Waiwupu or Foreign Office which in turn memorialised the great high Dragon Throne. The result was an edict constructed with due Italiano-Chinese superfluity by the laughing officials in which the foreigners in Peking are proclaimed to be the special charge and, under the particular care of the throne and the people are rebuked for manifesting disrespect. The incident which was insignificant and childish occurred in the legation area, which is subject to foreign police control and has a patrol of Italian marines armed with sword bayonets, and a sentinel armed with a rifle is within one hundred and fifty yards of the spot. A broad grin is diffused over the community both foreign and native. However, the incident has a deep political significance as it is preliminary to an ultimatum on San Mun bay.

SPORTS.

The British sporting men have a bit round a chit announcing for March 31st what would be a gymkhana, if so much of the gymkhana were not left out. There will be horse-racing but no other international contest. The reason given is that the Americans growled because they were beaten at "Tug-o-War" and the German officers say they will not be able to control the men if they should be beaten again! (Sic!)

LATE BOXER CHIEF ENTERTAINS MINISTERS

Natung, the distinguished Boxer chief, member of the Waiwupu, head of Peking police, etc., entertained the ministers with an elaborate dinner last evening at his place near Li Hung-chang's old temple. Yung Lu as well as all the other talent including the Waiwupu were present. Natung had his policemen scattered along the line half-a-mile from the British Legation to his home as a mark of special honour to the diplomats who were dragged through the narrow lanes to the goldfish Hutung crowded with gendarmes. Tents were erected each side the entrance for the officers, and Mongol ponies by the score were jerked up and down until respectable citizens waived all rights and took another street.

A BISHOP'S RANK.

Bishop Favier, Bishop Jarlin and Sir Robert Hart were there, the two former ranking with the latter, each equivalent to ministers plenipotentiary. These attended Prince Ching's dinner given a couple of weeks ago. The Chinese have for a year been trying to persuade the Protestants to elect a head as a subject for honorary rank and clothes-button to be responsible for converts to their home governments and to the Throne, but the Protestants have shunned it as a viper, not even consenting to an official acknowledgment of their services in helping to arrange the native indemnities.

COMMISSION ON INDEMNITY CLAIMS.

The appointment of Mr. Ragsdale, Consul at Tientsin, and Mr. Bainbridge, second secretary of Legation, as a commission to adjust Indemnity claims of American nationals has given general satisfaction. Both men were here during the troubles and know the value of lost property, and they ought to make fair and full allowances. Mr. Squier's name had been mentioned in connection with this work but owing to the delay already "stored up," as the Chinese say, Mr. Conger was instructed to appoint the commission at once so that the work of passing the claims might be finished at the earliest moment. This seems to indicate that Congress is expected to pass the bill appropriating the two millions of dollars asked for, as soon as the subject can come up. Mr. Squier is not expected here before 1st May.—*Mercury*.

FOOCHOW.

The following items are from the *Foochow Echo* of the 22nd ult.:

On Tuesday last the Chinese authorities entertained the French Minister at the house of the Foreign Board.

The French cruiser *Friant* left Pagoda Anchorage on the 19th inst., with the French Minister.

The races on the 19th and 20th inst. passed off successfully in fine weather.

Mr. E. S. Little addressed the members of the Foochow General Chamber of Commerce yesterday afternoon on the subject of the Tariff revision. His views on the question were adopted and a resolution was passed.

The following account is given of the race for the Foochow Champion Stakes on the 20th ult.:

Mr. Oswald's <i>Sirius</i>	155 lbs (Mr. Oswald)	1
Mr. J. S. Bruce's <i>Ace of Hearts</i>	155 lbs. (Mr. Silver)	2
Capt. Hope's <i>Adonis</i>	155 lbs. (Mr. Cox)	3
Mr. Graham's <i>Persian Rose</i>	161 lbs. (Mr. Pearson)	0

The greatest interest was taken in this race, as evinced by the clatter of tongues that went on as the names of the ponies, their weights and their jockeys were run up on the board. The start was a good one. *Persian Rose* had the rails. In this race, contrary to what had been noticed as his custom, the rider of *Adonis* commenced at once to make the running, but at the one-mile post J. C. O. on *Sirius* was close on his heels and at the top of back straight *Ace of Hearts* was seen to be coming up remarkably well, having passed *Persian Rose*. They ran in this order away to the top of the home straight again, when *Sirius* took the lead and came in a winner by 2 lengths. Time 2min. 48sec.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

MESSRS. WATKINS, LIMITED.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
Hongkong, 29th March.

SIR,—Allow me to correct through the medium of your paper a statement made by the Chairman at the meeting of shareholders of the above Company held on Thursday last. The Chairman said "Through a clerical error your Auditor omitted to deduct the cost of Aerated Water Plant and Machinery already standing at debit of this account," etc. There has been no clerical error on my part, the Stock having always been valued by the General Managers, and I have been particular on each occasion to see that they signed the Stock

Sheets and also to mention in my report as Auditor, that the Stock had been valued by the General Managers, but for reasons, unknown to me they included the value of the Aerated Water Plant in the Stock Lists, and signed those lists. I admire the ingenuity of the Chairman in endeavouring to extricate the General Managers from an awkward position by taking refuge behind me, but think in this case that the old French proverb applies "*qui s'excuse s'accuse*."

With regard to the \$3,600 at present owing to the Company by Mr. Watkins, this sum is very much in excess of the amount of his indebtedness when the Company took over the business. His account has gradually increased to the present figures, sums having been debited to him by the Company.

Understanding that Mr. Watkins had part d with a number of his shares, on which the Company of course held a first lien, I deemed it my duty, in the interests of the shareholders, to refuse to sign the accounts, unless the matter was laid bare, hence the delay in publishing the report and accounts. I have now terminated my connection with the Company as auditor.—Yours, etc.

W. H. GASKELL.

WATKINS, LIMITED.

The third ordinary general meeting of the shareholders in Watkins, Limited, was held on the 27th ult. at 66, Queen's Road Central. Mr. G. A. Watkins presided, and there were also present Major Brown, Captain Tillett, Captain Nurse, B.L., Messrs. I. Grant Smith, E. J. Grist, W. A. Sims, T. H. Reid, J. W. Osborne, A. R. Ezekiel N. Mumford, J. Minhinett, W. H. Gaskell and Chan A Fook.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, Your General Managers regret that there has been delay in sending out the report and balance-sheet to-day. Well, it has been caused by circumstances over which we had absolutely no control—we did not get the report from the printer until 11 o'clock this morning. If there are any shareholders present who prefer the meeting to be adjourned to have time to study the balance-sheet or any other things, I shall be very happy to do so. If not, we shall go on with the business before us.

There being no expression of opinion to the contrary.

The CHAIRMAN continued—I take it for granted, gentlemen, that the business will proceed. We shall hold the report and accounts as read, to save time. Taking into consideration the continued increase in almost every item of local expense, coupled with the continued fall in exchange, the nett results on the year's working are not so unsatisfactory as first appearances seem to indicate. Touching the amount of \$8,741.97 which was included in the \$13,544.54 passed to equalisation of dividends at our last annual meeting, I would like to point out that it has been the custom of your General Managers to give the auditor their stock book containing all the assets and liabilities of the Company as on the 31st December of each year. Through a clerical error your auditors omitted to deduct the cost of aerated water plant and machinery already standing at debit of this account, thereby causing a double entry under this head. The increase in charges account is due to several causes. For instance, our shop rent has advanced from \$100 to \$285 per month, quarters for Chinese employees from \$35 to \$78 per month, increase of office work necessitates the employment of a European assistant, advertising, loss on subsidiary coins, exchange, &c. Your stock contains nothing except what is absolutely of the first quality. It has been taken by Mr. McLoughlin, who is a qualified chemist and quite competent to do the work. Your General Managers have verified every item and found the same correct. At today's low exchange it would cost you about 20% more money to replace your present stock. Aerated water factory amply justifies the outlay in this department of our business, and as our waters become better known, full appreciation of their high class quality, and increased sales, will be sure to follow. With regard to the sum standing in my name, and referred to by the auditor, I wish to state that this was due to, and taken over from, the old firm, and has not been incurred during the existence of

this Company. Shareholders may safely leave this in the hands of your General Managers to see it liquidated in due course. We propose, with your consent, to transfer from the equalisation of dividend fund to the credit of profit and loss account, the sum of \$3,741.97 which will then stand at \$10,159.47 and thus enable us to pay a dividend for the year of 9 per cent. The balance at credit of the equalisation of dividend fund will, after the proposed transfer, then stand at \$4,802.57 which amount is to be carried forward. Unless any shareholder has any question to ask, I will now proceed to propose the adoption of the report and statement of accounts as presented.

Captain TILLET—I have a question to ask, Mr. Chairman. I understand you to say that this sum of \$3,665.14 that you are indebted to the Company was incurred before the new Company was formed.

The CHAIRMAN—Yes, sir.

Captain TILLET—And why was it not stated so at the time?

The CHAIRMAN—It has been stated by us every time that the accounts have been put before you.

Captain TILLET—But why was it not stated before the new Company was formed?

The CHAIRMAN—You had better ask Mr. Gaskell that question himself.

Captain TILLET—It would have been better if it had appeared on the last balance-sheet.

The CHAIRMAN—Certainly.

Captain TILLET—Why did not you put it there?

The CHAIRMAN—Why should I put it there more than your or any other account?

Captain TILLET—These may be only matters of a handful of dollars or cents; but this is a large sum.

The CHAIRMAN—Quite so; that was taken over by the new Company and the debt has been incurred for seven or eight or nine years running.

Captain TILLET—Is there any possibility of it ever being paid off; it is pretty nearly time it was now.

The CHAIRMAN—Well, if you leave it to the General Managers it will be done.

Captain TILLET—Are you aware, Mr. Chairman, that the General Managers are responsible to the shareholders for the funds of the Company?

The CHAIRMAN—Yes, certainly.

Captain TILLET—I am very glad to hear it.

The CHAIRMAN—Yes, and the General Managers also. They have a lien on the shares standing in my name.

Captain TILLET—Well, it is time that debt was paid off between you and Mr. Chan A Fook.

The CHAIRMAN—We will attend to it.

Captain TILLET—But I did not mean attended to in seven or eight years, but within the current year.

The CHAIRMAN—Well, you may look to it that the debt will be liquidated.

Captain TILLET—And within the current year?

The CHAIRMAN—No, certainly. You do not expect that I can put down \$3,600 within twelve months at the paltry salary I am paid—\$300 a month; very soon my senior assistant will be getting as much as I am, and I do not think that is a reasonable salary considering my 20 years' experience in the East. We will liquidate the debt if you give us time.

Captain TILLET—Mr. A Fook is equally responsible.

The CHAIRMAN—Yes.

Captain TILLET—Well, let him come forward and help to liquidate the debt.

The CHAIRMAN—But we are not pushed for the money.

Captain TILLET—But the Company would be in a far better position if we had it.

The CHAIRMAN—But as a matter of fact that money should have been wiped out by the old Company.

Captain TILLET—What interest does the money pay.

The CHAIRMAN—None.

Captain TILLET—Do you consider that right?

The CHAIRMAN—I do. I consider the Company is having more than that out of me.

Captain TILLET—That is not the point; your character and value are not mentioned in the matter. It is a matter of money that is

owing by you to the Company. You say there is all this money owing by you to the Company, and we want it to be paid off in the current year, and it is bearing no interest.

The CHAIRMAN—I do not think it is right that the Company should charge an employee interest, and especially for a debt that was taken over.

Captain TILLET—Apparently the shareholders did not have any knowledge that you had that money.

The CHAIRMAN—Then why did Mr. Gaskell not put it in?

Captain TILLET—Did you ask Mr. Gaskell to attend to-day?

The CHAIRMAN—Yes, I did specially.

Mr. GRANT SMITH—Mr. Chairman, with regard to these shares that you say Watkins, Limited, have a lien on, are they in possession of the Company?

The CHAIRMAN—No, they are not.

Mr. GRANT SMITH—Where are they?

The CHAIRMAN—They are in the possession of the Court at the present moment, with your partner, who has a case on.

Mr. GRANT SMITH—Then, as it stands at present, that is not a security at all for the Company?

The CHAIRMAN—Yes, the Company can get all the dividends for the year, but not the transfers.

Mr. GRANT SMITH—But, if the shares are not in your possession, how can you get the dividend? Is there a lien on these shares as well?

The CHAIRMAN—According to the articles of association there is a lien on the shares. The Company will have the dividend and that will be quite sufficient to liquidate the amount.

Mr. GRANT SMITH—Last year you told us that you did not include in the statement of accounts any profits made by the Company as the result of the sale of stores, etc., shipped up to Tientsin. Will you tell us whether these profits are included in the report now before us, and say what is the actual amount made from the shipment?

The CHAIRMAN—The amount is included in the report, and is about \$4,000 roughly.

Mr. Gaskell having now entered the meeting, the Chairman was asked to request him to make a statement with reference to the loan.

The CHAIRMAN—Mr. Gaskell, will you explain why you did not include that loan in the first balance-sheet?

Captain TILLET (addressing Mr. Gaskell).—The question I asked was this: I have asked the Chairman about this sum that he owes the Company, and he says it is a debt going back seven or eight years, since the Company took it over. It was known to you, and I said the shareholders did not know anything about it, but he said that that was a question that you could answer, and I asked him if he had asked you to be present to-day, and he said that he had. Perhaps you can give us some information.

Mr. GASKELL—As far as the taking over of the Company went, of course no bad debts were taken over. They never are in any Company.

The CHAIRMAN (interposing).—But this is not a bad debt by any means.

Mr. GASKELL—If the money was owing then at the time it should have been paid off. The reason why it has not appeared specially in the accounts is that it appeared in the "accounts receivable, sundry debts," which have been amalgamated with the general debts owing to the Company, and have been regarded as good by Mr. Chan A Fook who told me he thought it was good; that was last year; but this year I have thought it advisable to mention it in my report.

The CHAIRMAN—And it is good; you may take it from me.

Captain TILLET—It cannot be very good when it is standing out without bearing any interest. I think it is time Mr. Fook and yourself liquidated this debt between you.

The CHAIRMAN—The way to do is to leave it in the hands of the General Managers and they will liquidate it.

Captain TILLET—I am not prepared to take such a general statement as that. The money is standing out without bearing interest, and that is not good enough. I will be glad if somebody will second the proposal I make, that this debt should be liquidated within the current year.

Mr. MUMFORD—I beg to second.

Mr. OSBORNE—I see there is something like \$1,700 of bad and doubtful debts; can you give us any information on that point?

The CHAIRMAN—The majority of that is really belonging to the shipping community. We shall have very great trouble and difficulty in collecting it, though it is not absolutely bad. As opportunity offers we will recover something of it.

Mr. GRANT SMITH—I beg to propose that the Company be credited with the interest due by you.

Major BROWN—I beg to second.

Captain TILLET—I think we have quite a sufficiency of motions now before the meeting. Let us proceed to the vote.

The CHAIRMAN—I beg to put the first resolution to the meeting, that the debt be liquidated within the current year.

Five voted for the motion, and the CHAIRMAN declared it carried.

The CHAIRMAN—What interest do you suggest, Mr. Smith?

Mr. GRANT SMITH—I should say the interest should be at the current rate of interest of the day.

Major BROWN—Bank interest?

Mr. GRANT SMITH—I should say 7 per cent.

The CHAIRMAN—The Bank rate is 6 per cent.

Captain TILLET—Be contented with that.

Mr. GRANT SMITH—All right; that will do.

The motion was carried, five voting for it.

The CHAIRMAN—There is one other thing to which I have to refer. I have received a telegram from our Shanghai manager informing us of the total destruction by fire of our branch at Shanghai. The loss, I may mention, is amply covered by insurance. If there are no more questions I would move the adoption of the report.

Mr. MUMFORD—With regard to the remarks you made just now, it seems to me that you are dissatisfied with the salary you are in receipt of. I think that is a matter that should be considered by the shareholders. It is not a very pleasant thing to hear that the General Manager is dissatisfied.

Captain TILLET—You are not quite in order. What is before the meeting is the report and balance-sheet.

Mr. MUMFORD—But he made a remark—

Captain TILLET—Yes, but that is foreign to the matter before the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN—I beg to propose the adoption of the report and statement of accounts now before the meeting. Will any gentleman second?

Mr. EZEKIEL—I beg to second.

The motion was carried.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business, gentlemen; I thank you for your attendance. Dividend warrants will be ready on Thursday next, 3rd April, on application at the office. Warrants will not be sent out or mailed to any one.

Mr. OSBORNE—Mr. Mumford made a remark in reference to your salary, Mr. Chairman—

Captain TILLET—The report has now been passed, and Mr. Osborne is not in order, as the meeting is finished.

The CHAIRMAN—Mr. Osborne is quite in order in making any remarks he pleases.

Captain TILLET—But the business is finished.

The CHAIRMAN—He has as much right as you or anybody else to make what remarks he likes.

Mr. GASKELL—I think Mr. Osborne is in order in expressing his views, but nothing can be done.

Mr. OSBORNE—I do not want to carry the thing any farther, but I suppose we can have an opportunity of discussing the matter.

The CHAIRMAN—I will see that a meeting is called. There are increased management expenses, which will mean \$200 or \$250 a month.

Major BROWN rose to speak, but was forestalled by

The CHAIRMAN, who said—The meeting is absolutely finished.

Mr. GRANT SMITH—Major Brown has as much right to express his view as Mr. Osborne had.

By this time most of the shareholders had left the meeting.

Major BROWN—There is one point I want to bring forward, and that is the price of some articles sold here. It seems to me that some business is lost through excessive charges.

The CHAIRMAN—And yet you are grumbling at the small dividends.

Major BROWN—Exactly so. A man told me that he was asked \$3 for a certain quantity of menthol, and some time afterwards it was got for \$15 at Watson's.

The CHAIRMAN—I asked him why he did not go to Watson's. That was Colonel—

Major BROWN—Oh, never mind who it was. It was got subsequently at the Pharmacy for \$15. That costs at home, according to the Druggists' Price List 22/- a pound, yet \$30 is asked for it at this shop by you, and you are an employee of the shareholders. I think that shows a little bit of business ability in losing business.

The CHAIRMAN—And if I had to buy it I could not get it for \$15.

Major BROWN—But it was got subsequently.

The CHAIRMAN—Yes, but I could not buy it. I have a pound for my own stock; and if you think I am going to dispose of my whole stock, well that would not be business. A pound would last me for 20 years.

Major BROWN—But there has been a demand for it lately.

The CHAIRMAN—As a matter of fact you don't know what you are talking about. A pound of this drug would last me for 20 years, and that is sufficient for my wants. I do not keep it for the convenience of you or any one person. If you are not satisfied, you or any of the shareholders have the remedy in your own hands and know what to do.

Major BROWN—Well, I may just tell you "you're another"; a considerable quantity has been sold in this Colony of late?

The CHAIRMAN—Yes, for two or three months, because of the presence of disease. I am speaking of what I know. I trust I know my own business. I am a chemist and you are not. I suppose if I came and told you how to run your hospital I would be ordered outside very quickly. I won't be told by you how to conduct the business.

Major BROWN—(retiring from the room)—I am just telling you you are losing business.

The meeting then dispersed.

The following are the report and accounts:—

Gentlemen,—We have now the pleasure to lay before you a statement of the Company's business and balance-sheet for the year ending the 31st December, 1901.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

The amount standing at credit of profit and loss account, after paying all charges, salaries, etc., and providing for bad and doubtful debts, is \$1,387.50.

In the accounts submitted to you last year, through a clerical error the stock included a portion of the plant and machinery of the value of \$8,741.97. This sum is included in the amount \$13,544.54 passed to equalisation of dividend fund at the last meeting, so that the net profit for the year 1901 was \$10,129.47.

DIVIDEND ACCOUNT.

We now propose with your consent to transfer from the equalisation of dividend fund to the credit of profit and loss account the sum of \$8,741.97, which will then stand at \$10,129.47, to pay a dividend for the year of 9 per cent. which will absorb \$9,000, carry forward to equalisation of dividend fund \$4,802.57, and to profit and loss account \$1,129.47.

The accounts have been audited by Mr. W. H. Gaskell.

G. A. WATKINS, } General Managers.
CHAN A FOOK, }
Hongkong, 20th March, 1902.

BALANCE-SHEET.

31st December, 1901.

LIABILITIES.		\$	c.
Capital—10,000 shares at \$10 fully paid up	100,000.00		
Reserve fund	13,544.54		
Accounts payable	4,674.20		
Loans payable	3,800.00		
Bills payable	26,909.17		
Profit and loss account	1,387.50		
		\$150,315.41	
ASSETS.		\$	c.
Aerated water plant	10,512.45		
Steam launch	88,058.20		
Less written off	393.67		
	7,664.53		
Furniture and fittings	11,399.74		
Less 10 per cent. written off	139.97		
	1,259.77		

Fixed deposit	\$2,000.00
Interest accrued	37.00
Proportion unexpired, fire insurance, etc.	203.94
Accounts receivable	36,325.82
Goods in godowns	16,518.69
Stock on hand	75,793.21
	\$150,315.41

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dr.	\$ c.
To written off steam launch	\$ 393.67
To written off furniture & fittings	139.97
To written off bad debts	1,738.10
	2,271.74
To charges, salaries, rent, fire insurance, interest, telegrams, etc.	37,203.61
To balance	1,387.50
	\$40,862.85
Cr.	\$ c.
By goods account	40,862.85
	\$40,862.85

CHINA SUGAR REFINING CO., LD.

The twenty-fourth annual general meeting of shareholders in the above Company was held on the 27th ult. at the offices of the general agents, Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. The Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving (Chairman) presided, and the others present were the Hon. C. P. Chater and Messrs. D. M. Moses, C. S. Sharp, R. C. Wilcox (Consulting Committee), G. C. Anderson, S. A. Joseph, J. McG. Forbes, A. Rodger, A. G. Stokes, F. Smyth, W. H. Gaskell, E. C. Emmet, J. R. Michael, Ho Fook, J. Barton (secretary), etc.

The notice convening the meeting having been read,

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, with your permission I propose as usual to dispense with the reading of the report and accounts, which were issued some days ago. As mentioned in the report, the refineries were kept well employed during the year, the quantity of sugar dealt with being larger than in 1900. In Japan the demand for sugar was stimulated during the first two months of the year by the expectation that a heavy excise tax would be imposed by the Government on the 1st of April, and consumers were therefore anxious to lay in stocks in anticipation of it. The imposition of this tax was, however, ultimately postponed until the 1st of October, and we took advantage of this delay to lay down a considerable quantity of sugar, on our own account, the production of which enabled us to keep the refineries at full work during the summer months. Large quantities of refined beet were also imported into Japan before the 1st April and 1st October, thereby causing, during the period under review, slow clearances on markets which were overloaded with the article, and for that reason, as also to the financial stringency prevailing in Japan, the sum appearing in the balance-sheet at debit of sundry creditors, viz., \$4,792,000, is larger than in previous years, and consequently the amount at debit of interest account has also proportionately increased. With regard to China, I am pleased to state that there has been steady increase in consumption during the year, and so far as I am able to judge, this is likely to continue. I regret to say, however, that although consumption has been upon the whole good, the prices realised have not been as satisfactory as could be wished, but this is explained by the enormous fall in the value of sugar which has taken place all over the world. During the first seven months of last year prices of raw beet sugar in Europe, then quoted at 9s. and over per cwt., were regarded as being at a moderate level, and although there were indications of over production, it was thought by those experts best qualified to judge that if it declined to about 8s. per cwt. the cost of production would probably be reached, and that there was not much fear of a further depreciation; unfortunately, however, these forecasts proved incorrect, as in consequence of the operation of the bounty system in beet-growing countries, and of unexpectedly large supplies which have pressed on the market, prices have steadily declined, and beet sugar is now quoted at the unprecedentedly low figure of 6s. 6d. per cwt. If there was no prospect of relief from such prices, the future would appear to be gloomy in the extreme, but fortunately, as you are doubtless aware from

what has appeared in the public prints, a convention has recently been signed in Brussels under which all bounties will be abolished on the 1st of September, 1903. It is yet too soon to forecast the effect which this will have upon values, but it is obvious that it will be beneficial, and for the first time for many years the cane and beet industries will compete on level terms. In this connection I may mention, as a matter of interest, that Mr. Licht, the most eminent authority on sugar statistics, estimates that the quantity of European beet-sugar which was benefited by bounties, direct and indirect, during last year reached the enormous total of 3,300,000 tons. You will readily understand, however, that such a severe fall in prices as I just now mentioned is doubly prejudicial to our trade in the East, as it enables European shippers to lay down refined beet to compete with us in all Eastern markets at very cheap rates, and also depreciates the value of the stock of raw sugar, which, as I have explained, at previous annual meetings of this Company, it is always necessary for us to purchase several months ahead of our requirements. Under these circumstances, we have deemed it prudent to value our outstanding shipments on 31st December at a figure which I estimate will leave a considerable margin as a set-off against the depreciation in value of our stock of raw sugar, which has to be worked off. You will gather from the remarks I have made that the prospects for our industry until the abolition of bounties takes effect are not over-bright, but I hope we may look forward with some degree of confidence to more prosperous times when we are freed from the unfair competition of beet sugar. Before passing the adoption of the report and accounts I shall be pleased to answer any questions.

There were no questions, and on the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. STOKES, the report and accounts were adopted.

On the motion of Mr. MICHAEL, seconded by Mr. SMYTH, the Hon. C. P. Chater and Messrs. D. M. Moses, C. S. Sharp, and R. C. Wilcox were re-elected as consulting committee.

Mr. GASKELL proposed the election as auditors of Messrs. Thomas Arnold and W. H. Potts.

This was seconded by Mr. EMMET and carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN—To-morrow being a holiday, dividend warrants will be issued, on application here, on Saturday morning. That is everything, gentlemen, and I thank you for your attendance.

LUZON SUGAR REFINING CO., LD.

The twentieth annual general meeting of shareholders in this Company was held at the offices of the general managers, Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., at 12.15 p.m. on the 27th ult. The Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving (Chairman) presided, and the others present were:—Messrs. H. P. White, C. S. Sharp (Consulting Committee), J. McG. Forbes, C. W. Dickson, A. Rodger, K. Ross, Ho Tung, Ho Fook, Lo Cheung Shin, J. Barton (Secretary), etc.

The notice convening the meeting having been read,

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, the report and accounts having been in your hands for some days, we will, as usual, with your permission, take them as read. You will, I think, have been somewhat prepared for the unsatisfactory statement of accounts submitted for your adoption, as it will be within your recollection that at the last annual meeting the Chairman mentioned that it had then been found necessary to close the refinery, and that the prospects of being able to resume work were remote, inasmuch as there was no outlet for our sugars except a small local demand insufficient to keep the works going for any lengthened period. I regret to say that matters in this respect did not improve during the year, as the works have been silent ever since, nor can I hold out any definite hope at present of their being able to start. I may here remind you that this industry was originally started primarily with the object of refining sugar for the Spanish market, into which, so long as the Philippines remained a Spanish possession, it was admitted free of duty, and that until the American occupation the greater part of the output of the refinery was shipped to Spain, which

formed the only regular outlet, the local consumption of refined sugar being always limited. Since the American occupation of the Islands took place, however, the Spanish market has remained entirely closed to us. Moreover, in consequence of the disturbed state of the country, the production of the sugar-estates in the Philippines has been greatly curtailed and it would therefore have been difficult to procure the necessary supplies of raw sugar at prices which would have left any margin of profit on refining, even if there had otherwise been sufficient inducement to resume work. It is obvious, gentlemen, that the present state of affairs cannot be indefinitely prolonged, and that if we are unable to find a regular and profitable outlet for our refined sugars the business must sooner or later come to an end. As you are no doubt aware, the commercial relations between the Philippines and the United States have been much discussed during the past year, and in some quarters it was thought possible that the Islands might be put upon the footing of a State, involving the abolition of all duties between them and America. In this event the prospects of sugar-refining in Manila would no doubt be radically changed, as free trade would open out a market for Philippine sugar in America. The Bill recently passed as a temporary measure by the United States Government only provides, however, for a reduction of 25 per cent. on the existing tariff, and although we are unable at present, in the absence of full details, to judge of how this will benefit us, I fear that the relief will be insufficient to materially improve the prospects of the Company, so far as the American market is concerned. The outlook, therefore, for the time being is gloomy, but I would recommend a little further patience on the part of shareholders, who possess a property which, though deteriorated by a combination of unforeseen events, might under certain circumstances appreciate considerably in value. It may be of interest to you to know that certain enquiries were made of us last year evidently with a view to the purchase of your property, but these did not result in any reasonable offer. I do not know of anything which I can usefully add to these remarks, except to say that the buildings and machinery at Malabon are being maintained in as good order as possible, and that current expenses are being kept down to the lowest point. Before moving the adoption of the report and accounts I shall be pleased to answer any questions.

There were no questions, and on the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. HO TUNG, the report and accounts were adopted.

Mr. ROSS then proposed the re-election as consulting committee of Messrs. H. P. White and C. S. Sharp, and this, after being seconded by Mr. RODGER, was carried unanimously.

On the motion of Mr. HO FOOK, seconded by Mr. LO CHEUNG SHIU, Mr. Thomas Arnold was re-elected auditor.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business, gentlemen, thank you for your attendance.

GREEN ISLAND CEMENT CO., LD.

The following is the report for presentation to the shareholders at the thirteenth ordinary general meeting to be held at the office of the General Managers, on Monday, 14th April, at 11 a.m.:

The net profit, including the amount brought forward from the previous year, amounts to \$111,820.63 which it is proposed to deal with as follows, viz:—

To place to reserve fund	\$1,000.00
To pay a dividend of 10 per cent.	100,000.00
To carry forward to next year's account	10,820.63

The result is a considerable improvement on the previous year, but deliveries under local contracts have so far not been so large as was anticipated and the factory has therefore not benefited to the full extent by the additional kilns and extensions which were completed last year.

The profit from the brick works is smaller as the cost of various improvements has been included in the working expenses in preference to increasing the capital account.

CONSULTING COMMITTEE.

Mr. D. Gillies retires on leaving the Colony and the General Managers recommend that Dr. J. W. Noble be invited to fill his place. Messrs. Ewens, Chater and Dickson retire but offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.

Mr. F. Henderson having retired, the accounts have been audited by Messrs. W. H. Potts and T. Arnold who are eligible for re-election.

SHEWAN TOMES & Co.,
General Managers.

Hongkong, 1st April, 1902.

The accounts are as follows:—

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

	\$	c.
Exchange	345.03	
Interest	8,795.47	
Consulting committee's fees	1,500.00	
Auditors' fees	400.00	
Amount written off as depreciation for 1901	91,130.27	
Balance	111,820.63	
	\$213,991.40	
	\$	c.
Balance brought forward from 1901	2,240.87	
Dividends, etc., forfeited	1,501.07	
Profit on sale of 140 unapplied shares	1,260.00	
Balance of working account:—		
Sales of cement	\$205,583.10	
Sales of bricks, &c.	3,406.36	
	208,989.46	
	\$213,991.40	

BALANCE-SHEET.

LIABILITIES.

	\$	c.
Capital:—		
100,000 shares at \$10, fully paid up	1,000,000.00	
Reserve fund	327,000.00	
Due to general managers	6,047.83	
Debentures drawn but not presented	600.00	
Sundry creditors	20,618.84	
Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation	227,222.34	
Balance of profit and loss	111,820.63	
	\$1,692,709.64	

ASSETS.

	\$	c.
Green Island, Macao:—		
Buildings and machinery, as per last statement	186,090.00	
Since expended on kilns and new reclamation	31,981.19	
	\$217,981.19	
Less depreciation	13,981.19	
	204,000.00	
Cement, raw material, &c., in stock valued at	64,292.40	
Hok Un, Hongkong:—		
Land, buildings and machinery as per last statement	\$661,000.00	
Since expended	17,813.20	
Expended on extensions during 1900	106,239.17	
Since expended	315,358.97	
	421,598.14	
	\$1,100,411.34	
Less depreciation	66,411.34	
	1,034,000.00	
Cement, raw material, &c., in stock valued at	151,790.02	
Deep Water Bay, works:—		
Land, buildings, machinery, &c., as per last statement	\$35,000.00	
Since expended	2,335.05	
	\$37,335.05	
Less depreciation	3,335.05	
	34,000.00	
Bricks, pipes, &c., in stock valued at	31,035.07	
Furniture	\$500.00	
Less depreciation	100.00	
	400.00	
Cement on consignment valued at	13,568.75	
Bricks on consignment valued at	70.00	
Sundry debtors	64,289.67	
Buoys and moorings	\$838.50	
Less depreciation	233.50	
	600.00	
Value of premium on unexpired policies	1,378.77	
Installments paid on steam launch, steamer, lighter and lighters in 1900	\$66,410.10	
Final payments on same	27,054.09	
	\$93,464.19	
Less depreciation	6,464.19	
	87,000.00	
Value of junk	\$3,600.00	
Less depreciation	600.00	
	3,000.00	
Cash on hand:—		
Head office	\$2,331.29	
Macao works	331.94	
Hok Un works	621.73	
	3,284.96	
	\$1,692,709.64	

YANGTSE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION, LD.

The following is the report for presentation to the twelfth ordinary general meeting of shareholders, to be held at the offices of the Association, No. 16, The Bund, Shanghai, on the 14th April, at 4.30 p.m.:—

The Board of Directors have now the pleasure to submit to the shareholders the annual report and audited statement of accounts and balance sheet to the 31st December, 1901.

Working Account 1900 and Former Years.—This account shows a credit balance of \$160,217.97 against \$250,286.34 on the 31st December, 1900. The directors recommend the payment of a dividend to shareholders of 20 per cent. out of this account and the transfer of \$33,098.90 to the credit of reserve fund. The account will then stand as follows:—
Dividend of 20% (= \$12 per share) .. \$ 96,000.00
To reserve fund 33,098.90
Balance to be carried forward 31,119.07

\$160,217.97

The dividend will be paid in taels at exchange 73. \$12 at exchange 73=taels 8.76 per share.

Working Account, 1901.—The net premium earned during 1901, after deducting return premium, re-insurance premium, &c., amount to \$732,386.50 against \$687,119.70 during 1900 and the account shows a balance at credit of \$456,758.90 on the 31st December last. The directors recommend placing the \$16,901.10, being profit on sales of securities, to the credit of reserve fund, and carrying forward the balance of \$439,857.80.

Reserve Fund.—After crediting this fund with \$33,098.90 and \$16,901.10, in all \$50,000, as recommended above, the reserve fund will amount to \$650,000.

Exchange and Investment Fluctuation Account.—This account has been increased by \$38,774.36 and now amounts \$96,518.57.

Sterling Exchange has been taken at 2s. 6½d. per tael (the demand rate on 31st December, 1901), and the relative value between dollars and taels at 73.

Investments.—The value on 31st December last has been taken for all the Association's investments.

DIRECTORS.

In accordance with the Articles of Association the present Directors all retire from office, but, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITOR.

The accounts have been audited by Mr. Augustus White, who offers himself for re-election.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

W. S. JACKSON,
Secretary.

Shanghai, 25th March, 1902.

The accounts are as follows:—

WORKING ACCOUNT.

	\$	c.
Dr.		
To net premium, less re-insurances, &c.	732,386.50	
To interest account	91,037.63	
To transfer fees account	102.00	
To profit on sales of securities	16,901.10	
	\$840,427.23	
Cr.		
By claims paid, less re-insurances, &c.	253,652.07	
By agency commissions	42,078.75	
By head office and general charges	40,836.74	
By London charges	24,106.67	
By Hongkong charges	4,557.56	
By agency charges	12,128.62	
By directors', auditors', & committees' fees	6,307.92	
By balance	456,758.90	
	\$840,427.23	

WORKING ACCOUNT.

	\$	c.
Dr.		
To balance of working account 1900 from last account	305,865.23	
To balance of working account, former years, from last account	250,286.34	
	\$556,151.57	
Cr.		
By net claims, re-insurance premium, and premium returned, &c., account 1900	224,476.51	
By bonus to secretary and staff	8,428.38	
By dividend—former years account \$12 per share on 8,000 shares	96,000.00	
By amount transferred to reserve fund ..	50,000.00	

By net claims and all payments account former years	\$17,028.71
By balance	160,217.97
	\$556,151.57

BALANCE-SHEET.

On 31st December, 1901.

LIABILITIES.

	\$	c.
Capital—8,000 shares of \$100 each, upon which the sum of \$60 per share has been called and fully paid up	480,000.00	
Reserve fund	600,000.00	
Exchange and investment fluctuation account	96,518.57	
Working account, 1901	456,758.90	
Working account, 1900 and former years	160,217.97	
Uncollected dividends and bonus	4,868.23	
	\$1,798,363.70	

ASSETS.

	\$	c.
Midland Railway Company, consolidated 2½ per cent. perpetual preference stock, £6,225. 4s.	67,379.12	
Great Northern Railway Co., consolidated 4 per cent. perpetual preference stock, £1,845	19,969.56	
London and North-Western Railway Co., consolidated 4 per cent. preference stock, £3,250	35,176.73	
Great Western Railway Co., 4 per cent. debenture stock, £1,687. 10s.	18,264.84	
Great Western Railway Co., 4½ per cent. debenture stock, £2,800	30,306.11	
India 3½ per cent. stock 1901, £1,983. 3s. 1d.	21,464.89	
Mortgages on real estate at Shanghai ..	434,246.57	
Chinese Imperial Govt. E loan of 1886 ..	70,215.75	
Cash at bankers on fixed deposit	356,164.39	
Cash at bankers on current account	168,551.36	
Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ltd., 6 per cent. debentures of 1890	35,273.97	
Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ltd., 6 per cent. debentures of 1894	35,273.97	
Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ltd., 5 per cent. debentures of 1896	11,465.76	
Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ltd., 6 per cent. debentures of 1901	70,547.95	
Shanghai Municipal 5 per cent. debentures of 1892	24,856.16	
Shanghai Municipal 5 per cent. debentures of 1895	7,157.53	
Shanghai Municipal 6 per cent. debentures of 1901	71,232.88	
Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ltd., 5 per cent. debentures of 1896	28,664.88	
Shanghai Gas Co., Ltd., 6 per cent. debentures of 1899	14,103.59	
Shanghai Cargo Boat Co., Ltd., shares ..	9,417.51	
Co-operative Cargo Boat Co., Ltd., shares ..	11,301.37	
S. C. Farnham, Boyd & Co., Ltd., shares ..	60,181.93	
Union Insurance Society of Canton, Ltd., shares	3,450.00	
North China Insurance Co., Ltd., shares ..	253.43	
Policy stamps at agencies	577.63	
Head office and London furniture	4,241.68	
Due by agencies, premium in course of collection, and sundry outstandings	188,615.29	
	\$1,798,363.70	

YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK, LD.

The following is the forty-fourth report of the Yokohama Specie Bank, Ltd. (Yokohama Shokin Ginko), presented to the shareholders at the half-yearly ordinary general meeting, held at the head office, Yokohama, on Monday, 10th March:—

Gentlemen,—The directors submit to you the annexed statement of the liabilities and assets of the Bank, and profit and loss account for the half-year ending December 31st, 1901.

The gross profits of the Bank for the past half-year, including yen 527,081.325 brought forward from last account, amount to yen 5,755,721.683, of which yen 3,441,564.890 have been deducted for current expenses, interests, &c., leaving a balance of yen 1,914,156.793.

The directors now propose that yen 200,000 be added to the reserve fund, raising it to yen 8,710,000. From the remainder the directors recommend a dividend at the rate of thirteen per cent. per annum, which will absorb yen 780,000 on old shares and yen 390,000 on new shares, making a total of yen 1,170,000.

The balance, yen 544,156.793, will be carried forward to the credit of next account.

NAGATANE SUMA, Chairman.

Head Office, Yokohama, 10th March, 1902.

The accounts are as follows:—

BALANCE-SHEET.

31st December, 1901.

	Yen.
Capital paid up	18,000,000.000
Reserve fund	8,510,000.000
Reserve for doubtful debts	409,932.450
Reserve for new building	115,106.4800

Deposits (current, fixed, etc.)	\$46,510,846.287
Bills payable, bills rediscounted, acceptances, and other sums due by the bank	71,672,594.834
Dividends unclaimed	4,741.20
Amount brought forward from last account	527,081.325
Net profit for the past half-year	1,387,075.468
	Yen 147,137,397.864

ASSETS.	Yen.
Cash account—	
In hand	5,557,054.900
At bankers	4,424,217.40
	9,981,272.300
Invest	
Bills	22,280,733.830
advances, &c.	34,742,981.459
Bills payable	79,293,150.734
the bank	203,516.080
Bullion and foreign money	635,743.600
Bank premises, properties, furniture, &c.	
	Yen 147,137,397.864

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

	Yen.
To current expenses, interests, &c.	3,841,564.890
To reserve fund	200,000.000
To dividend—	
Yen 6.500 per share for 120,000 old shares—yen 780,000.000; and yen 3.250 per share for 120,000 new shares—yen 390,000.000	1,170,000.000
To balance carried forward to next account	544,156.793
	Yen 5,755,721.683
By balance brought forward 30th June, 1901	527,081.325
By amount of gross profits for the half-year ending 31st December, 1901	5,228,640.358
	Yen 5,755,721.683

SUPREME COURT.

Wednesday, 2nd April.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR T. SERCOMBE SMITH
(ACTING PUISNE JUDGE).

A HABEAS CORPUS CASE.

Kan Fan Shi applied for a writ of habeas corpus to produce the body of her daughter Kan Sing Yee, alias Kan Tsui Ngan, who was detained in the Po Leung Kuk institution in Hongkong. Mr. T. Morgan Phillips, barrister-at-law, appeared for the applicant (instructed by Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist, solicitors) and the defendant side was represented by the Acting Attorney-General, the Hon. A. G. Wise (instructed by Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, Crown Solicitor).

The mother's declaration was to the effect that her daughter was confined in the Po Leung Kuk institution by order of the committee of that institution. She was 18 years of age and was until recently in the employ or under the charge of a woman named Mrs. Wai, with whom she had been placed several years ago. Mrs. Wai, according to the mother's declaration, recently arranged that a Chinaman over 60 years of age should take the girl as his concubine, and in consequence of that arrangement and her objection to it the girl left Mrs. Wai's employment and was afterwards taken to the above-mentioned institution. Upon hearing of the girl having been placed in the Po Leung Kuk the mother came down from Canton to Hongkong for the purpose of obtaining her release. She applied to the Registrar-General for the girl's release, but he informed her that it was intended that she should be sent to a Chinese institution in Canton and there dealt with as it might seem fit to the persons in authority there. Inasmuch as it was not considered immoral for a girl in the station of life of this girl to become a concubine and that she would be deemed to be properly provided for if she were taken as such by the man referred to, the mother verily believed that if her daughter were sent to the institution at Canton she would be compelled to become his concubine.

The Acting Attorney-General said he desired to state on behalf of the Registrar-General that there was no question now as regards the return of the girl to her mother. The only point before the Court, therefore, was the question of costs.

Mr. Morgan Phillips stated that this girl was 18 years of age. She was at an early age handed over by her mother to the custody of a

woman residing in Hongkong, and it appeared that the latter proposed to sell the girl to a somewhat aged Chinaman to become his concubine—a man stated to be over 60 years of age. No doubt the girl did not approve of this proposal, and not unnaturally, considering that the man was old enough to be her grandfather, if not her great grandfather. She accordingly absconded. She went to the Po Leung Kuk institution and upon the mother becoming aware of her being there she came down from Canton and went to the institution and asked that the girl be released. The girl was also anxious to go back to her mother. A joint application was accordingly made for her release but it was refused. It must have been well-known to the Registrar-General that in returning the girl to the institution in Canton she would again come under the domination of this woman who had purchased her in Hongkong. His Lordship, interposing, said he could not admit that.

Mr. Morgan Phillips remarked that at any rate that statement was made in the affidavit and was not denied in the reply. The Registrar-General, he contended, did not exercise a wise discretion in withholding the girl from the custody of her mother.

The Acting Attorney-General pointed out that it was the custom in China for girls to go to this institution in Canton to become concubines; he did not see why she should not be agreeable to the customs of the country.

Mr. Morgan Phillips—But to a man 60 years of age. And, after all, this is not a custom which is approved of in Hongkong.

The girl, having been sworn, deposed that she wanted to go back to her mother.

The Registrar-General, Hon. A. W. Brewin, was then called to give evidence. He stated that he first saw the girl on the 25th of February. Mrs. Wai came to his office and told him that one of her maid-servants had disappeared and that she believed her to be with another family. He sent to that family and got her. She said she ran away because her mistress wished to sell her as a prostitute. He proposed to her that she should go to the Po Leung Kuk until her mother, who was in China, could come down for her. His intention was to hand her over to her mother then. He sent her to the institution and asked the committee to hand her over to her mother when she came to the Colony.

Cross-examined, Mr. Brewin stated that he understood that the girl was sold when she was seven years old for \$64 by her mother to Mrs. Wai. All the proceedings he had taken in connection with the case were for the girl's good. He proposed to send her to the institution in Canton because she was bought in China originally.

His Lordship, in giving judgment, said that this was an application for the release from the Po Leung Kuk of a girl who had been sent there by the Registrar-General with consent of all parties, including that of the girl herself. The Registrar-General had made a return to the writ of habeas corpus and stated that he was willing that the girl should be taken away by her mother. It had been all along his intention that the child should be restored to the mother but what he wanted to do was to restore her to her mother not in Hongkong but in Canton. The question arose as to whether under these circumstances the mother was entitled to the custody of her child. That question, it seemed to him, was altogether disposed of by Section 24 of Ordinance No. 9 of 1897; (His Lordship read the section and continued): Now under that enactment the mother was not entitled as of right to the custody of the girl, because she had parted with her for some purpose—the purpose of being a maid-servant—and, so far as the evidence went to show, had received money on that account. That of course was a common process in China. It came to this, that the Registrar-General refused the application of the mother and was justified in refusing that application. It seemed to him that it was more a matter of grace—in fact entirely a matter of grace—that the Registrar-General should now come into Court and state that he was willing to restore the girl to her mother. Therefore there should be no costs allowed; the girl should be restored to her mother.

The Court adjourned.

REVIEW.

John Chinaman. By E. H. PARKER. London, John Murray. Imperial Library.

MR. E. H. PARKER's new work is one of the most readable books dealing with the Far East which it has been our fortune to come across for a long time. We may regret that Mr. Parker has not seen fit to select a more dignified title, for "John Chinaman" is on a par with "The Japs," "Tommy Atkins," and other detestable colloquialisms which disfigure present-day writing. But it is impossible to deny to Mr. Parker's volume a prominent place among the lighter literature dealing with things Chinese. Mr. Parker takes as a motto Dr. Johnson's saying, "No man but a blockhead ever wrote except for money." Such candour is refreshing, and we are certain that *John Chinaman* is none the worse for having been written primarily to add to its author's income. It is not necessary for us to insist on the qualifications of the Professor of Chinese at Owens College, Manchester, and the former resident at Peking and, as H.B.M. Consul, at Tientsin, Taku, Hankow, Kewkiang and Canton, to write a book concerning the Chinese. His *China: Her History, Diplomacy, and Commerce* is too well known to admit of any doubt on the subject. The book before us is one of reminiscences. Mr. Parker, however, starts out not so much to describe his own doings as to illustrate Chinese character by means of concrete examples. His general position toward the Chinese may be gathered from the following sentence in his preface:—"I cannot help thinking that we Christians have not only acted foolishly, uncharitably, and unjustly, but that we are rousing a feeling of bitter resentment both in China and Japan; and more especially for Russia, France, and Germany; that is to say, unless we decide to recognise and make allowances for a human nature which is to all essential purposes our own." Lest it should be hastily concluded from this that Mr. Parker is excessively pro-Chinese, we may mention that in the same preface he says:—"I do not say the Chinese are very nice people to live with; in fact, *odi profanum vulgus et arceo* was always my feeling towards them."

It may perhaps give some idea of Mr. Parker's book if we quote some of his chapter-headings. He writes of "Births, Marriages, and Deaths," "The Hand of God" (cholera, tornadoes, etc.), "Riots—Missionary and Other," "Piracies and Murders," "Viceroys and Governors," "Religion and Missionaries," "Army and Navy," "Pseudo-Chinamen," "Distinguished Foreigners," "Police and their Masters," and so on. These various subjects are illustrated by an interesting collection of photographs, lent to Mr. Parker by various friends, among whom we notice the name of the Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart. Among these is one of Mr. Stewart Lockhart himself, in his cadet days, and his Chinese teacher "Old Ow." Of the latter, Mr. Parker says that he was in one sense "a sort of Chinese Carlyle" and that our present Colonial Secretary always cherished a noble veneration for his memory. Other people whose names will be familiar to the older residents in Hongkong and Canton will also be found in Mr. Parker's pages; and events not yet lost in the mists of antiquity will similarly be found described. Among those is a vivid account of the great Canton tornado of April, 1878.

Among so many subjects as Mr. Parker deals with, it is naturally difficult to discriminate as to which are most worthy of notice. He touches on all alike in a vigorous, breezy, and anything but squeamish style. Some of his stories have already gone the rounds of the Press, others will no doubt follow them on the same journey. That of Archdeacon Gray, of Canton, and the Duke of Edinburgh is almost hackneyed by now, but it will perhaps bear one more repetition. The Duke was at the British Yamen at Canton and expressed a wish to see the deer in the park. The deer were called to the gate, and the Archdeacon (who really, Mr. Parker says, spoke very mediocre Chinese) asked the keeper why they did not come. "Mou!" ("No got!"), responded the Chinaman. "What does he say?" asked Prince Alfred. "Your royal highness, the man says that, look whithersoever he will, he really cannot discern the whereabouts of the

deer." "A d—expressive language, the Chinese!" muttered the amused prince to his friends. We do not select this story as the best which Mr. Parker tells, but as one typical of his genial style. Many such will be found in the pages of *John Chinaman*, which is in every way a book to be commended to all in the slightest way interested in China and the Chinese. It is seldom that a man with such a full acquaintance with China has been able to produce a book about its people so devoid of pedantry and so full of humour.

CRICKET.

H.K.C.C. v. WONGNEICHONG CLUBS.

This match on the 29th ult. ended in an easy victory for the premier club by an innings and 7 runs. Dixon's and Fitch's bowling was altogether too much for the Wongneichong representatives, whose attack, however, was fairly effective. Scores and analysis:—

H.K.C.C.			
Lt. France-Hayhurst, st Walker, b Gratrix	9		
Capt. Krickenbeck, c Lammert, b Gratrix	46		
W. Dixon, b Gratrix	13		
G. A. Digby, R.N., c Pestonjee, b Gratrix	0		
J. Hooper, c Walker, b Preedy	42		
A. Campbell, R.N., not out	37		
Major Buttanshaw, c Pestonjee, b Preedy	1		
A. N. Gouldsmith, run out	24		
L. C. Lampen, b Gratrix	10		
E. W. Fitch, c and b Gratrix	14		
E. G. Davies, c Lammert, b Pestonjee	0		
Extras	8		
Total	204		
WONGNEICHONG CLUBS.			
First Innings.	Second Innings.		
Cp. Gratrix, R.A., b Dixon	8 b Fitch	32	
Pte. Preedy, R.W.F., c Hayhurst, b Dixon	10 c sub, b Gouldsmith	0	
Corpl. Sharp, R.W.F., b Dixon	0 b Fitch	1	
R. Pestonjee, c and b Hayhurst	0 c and b Gouldsmith	6	
J. G. Kinnaird, c Krickenbeck, b Dixon	1 c Campbell, b Fitch	8	
L. A. Lammert, c Davies, b Hayhurst	0 b Fitch	0	
L. A. Rose, b Dixon	6 b Fitch	0	
J. C. A. Lillywhite, b Dixon	4 c Fitch, b Gouldsmith	6	
H. Turner, b Dixon	3 c Campbell, b Dixon	5	
M. E. Asgar, not out	10 not out	0	
Gr. Walker, R.A., c Lampen, b Hayhurst	8 b Fitch	0	
Extras	7 Extras	14	
Total	57	Total	72

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

H.K.C.C.				
	O.	M.	R.	W.
Preedy	25	7	64	2
Gratrix	17	1	97	6
Turner	7	1	24	—
Pestonji	1	—	—	1

WONGNEICHONG CLUBS.								
First Innings.				Second Innings.				
	O.	M.	R.	W.	O.	M.	R.	W.
Dixon.....	8	2	24	7	—	—	—	—
Hayhurst	8	—	26	3	—	—	—	—
Gouldsmith	—	—	—	—	8	—	49	4
Fitch	—	—	—	—	8	3	8	6

HONGKONG RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

CLOSE OF THE EASTER MEETING.

The twentieth annual Easter Meeting of the Hongkong Rifle Association came to a close on the 31st ult. under very inauspicious circumstances, the wind being treacherous and the light bad. In the two competitions that yet remained to be finished, the All Comers' and the Ladies' Nomination, Mr. D. Baldwin, the champion shot of the year with 305 points, was again successful, winning both with 123 (five ranges) and 31 (one range), respectively.

At the close of the day Mrs. Powell, wife of Commodore Powell, presented the prizes, and was in turn made the recipient of a handsome bouquet of flowers placed in a finely-engraved silver stem. Mr. M. S. Northcote, hon. secretary of the Rifle Association, handed the memento to Mrs. Powell, whom he thanked for the performance of the graceful service just concluded. Referring to the approaching departure of Commodore and Mrs. Powell, Mr. Northcote wished them *bon voyage* and all happiness at home. He also thanked the Commodore for the support he had extended to the Rifle Association, and remarked that its sound position nowadays had been gained largely

through the instrumentality of Commodore Powell, who, hearing that the Association was not so flourishing as it might be, had granted the members the use of the range at Kowloon. In his reply, Commodore Powell, after acknowledging the complimentary allusions to his wife and himself, said it had been a great pleasure to be able to assist the Association, and if his action tended to promote good shooting in the Colony he would be amply repaid. Cheers were afterwards given for Commodore and Mrs. Powell.

Appended are the names of the prize-winners in the various competitions, with their respective scores:—

CHAMPIONSHIP, 1ST STAGE. Distances, 200, 500, and 600 yards. Members only. No. of shots—Seven at all ranges. Entrance fee 50 cents. Three prizes value 50 per cent. of the entries with \$15 added.

	200	500	600	Total
D. Baldwin	33	34	32	99
R. Lapsley	32	33	31	96
J. Pidgeon	29	34	32	95
Sergt. Davis	33	30	30	93
Q.-M.-S. West	32	32	25	89
E. J. Jeffrey, H.M.S. Ocean	29	31	28	88
W. G. Stackwood	28	31	25	84
H. Hobday, H.M.S. Goliath	28	32	23	83

CHAMPIONSHIP, 2ND STAGE. Distances, 500 and 600 yards. Members only. No. of shots—Ten and fifteen respectively. Entrance fee 50 cents. Three prizes value 50 per cent. of the entries with \$15 added.

	500	600	Total
Sergt. Davis	47	67	114
D. Baldwin	47	66	113
W. G. Stackwood	47	63	110
H. Hobday, H.M.S. Goliath	41	63	104
J. Pidgeon	39	65	104
Q.-M.-S. West	45	56	101
R. Lapsley	41	59	100
E. J. Jeffrey, H.M.S. Ocean	37	56	93

CHAMPIONSHIP, 3RD STAGE. Distance, 700 and 800 yards. Members only. No. of shots—Ten at each range. Entrance fee 50 cents. Three prizes value 50 per cent. of the entries with \$15 added.

	700	800	Total
E. J. Jeffrey, H.M.S. Ocean	48	48	96
R. Lapsley	49	48	95
Q.-M.-S. West	47	47	94
D. Baldwin	47	46	93
H. Hobday, H.M.S. Goliath	46	47	93
Sergt. Davis	43	48	91
W. G. Stackwood	46	41	87
J. Pidgeon	41	41	82

CHAMPIONSHIP GRAND AGGREGATE.

	Total
D. Baldwin	99 113 93 305
Sergt. Davis	93 114 91 298
R. Lapsley	96 100 95 291
Q.-M.-S. West	89 101 94 284
W. G. Stackwood	84 110 87 281
J. Pidgeon	95 104 82 281
H. Hobday, H.M.S. Goliath	83 104 93 280
E. J. Jeffrey, H.M.S. Ocean	88 93 96 277

NURSERY. Distances, 200, 500, and 600 yards. Restricted to members other than A Class shots, who joined the Rifle Association on or before 1st March, 1902. No. of shots—Seven at each range. Entrance fee 50 cents. Three prizes value 50 per cent. of the entries with \$15 added.

	200	500	600	Total
Lieut. Garnet, R.W.F.	32	32	24	88
A. O. Wood	28	34	23	85
T. Donaldson	26	29	28	83
— Hamilton	25	28	28	81

ALL COMERS. Competition for all comers, rifles or carbines, will take place simultaneously with the foregoing events at ranges 200, 500, 600, 700 and 800 yards. No. of shots—Five at each range. Unlimited entries. Entrance 30 cents per shoot.

	200	500	600	700	800	Total
D. Baldwin	25	25	24	25	24	123
J. Marshall	25	25	22	25	22	118
J. Pidgeon	24	24	23	25	22	118
R. Lapsley	23	24	23	25	22	117
A. Watson	23	23	21	25	24	116

LADIES' NOMINATION. Open to lady members or their nominees. Distance, 600 yards. No. of shots—Seven. No entrance fee. Any position. Prizes presented.

Mrs. Baldwin nominates D. Baldwin	31
Mrs. Northcote	30
Mrs. McNab	29
Mrs. Pullen	29
Mrs. G. P. Lammert	28
Mrs. Logan	28
Mrs. Baggaridge	28
Mrs. Andrew	26
Mrs. Scott	26
Mrs. Wilcox	25

SIXTH IMPERIAL RIFLE MATCH.

HONGKONG FIFTH.

The sixth of the series of matches arranged by the Rupanyup (Victoria) Rifle Club with teams throughout the British Empire took place between 1st September and 15th October last year, and the result has just been made up by the organising secretary (Mr. W. A. Whitehead). From this it will be seen that Hongkong takes fifth place. The following are the scores:—

13th Regiment, Hamilton, Canada	986
77th (Wentworth) Regiment, Dundas, Ontario, Canada	971
1st Vol. Batt. Gordon Highlanders, Aberdeen, Scotland	962
*Bangalore Rifle Volunteers, Habbal, Bangalore, India	946
Hongkong Rifle Association, Hongkong, China	943
4th Volunteer Battalion, Essex Regiment, Ilford, England	941
*Madras Railway Volunteers, Madras, India	939
*Madras Volunteer Guards, St. Thom, Madras, India	923
*Sind Volunteer Rifle Corps, Karachi, India	903
2nd Volunteer Battalion Hants Regiment, Romsey, England	890
Natal Coast Rifle Association, Durban, Natal South Africa	885
Rupanyup Rifle Cup, Victoria	884
1st Wiltz. R. Volunteer Corps, Warminster, Wiltz, England	854
Kingston and S. Andrew Rifle Association, Jamaica, West Indies	846
Demerara Rifle Association, West Indies	825
*Bengal-Nagpur Rail Volunteer Rifle Corps, Chakradharpur, India	792

* 50 points added for the M.-H. rifles.

POLO.

On the 31st ult. the members of the Hongkong Polo Club held their annual dinner at the Hongkong Club, and at the same time took the opportunity of bidding farewell to the late Hon. Sec., Lieut.-Col. Koe, A.S.C., who left by the *Empress of China* on the 2nd inst. Mr. T. H. Whitehead (indispensable at a polo dinner) occupied the chair and, after the drinking of the usual loyal toast, delivered a speech suitable to the occasion, in which he spoke of Lieut.-Col. Koe's zealous work as Hon. Sec. of the Polo Club. At the same time he handed him a souvenir which had been subscribed for by the members of the Club. Mr. Whitehead wound up by exerting his persuasive powers on all present to bring recruits to the Polo Club, so as to keep the game in a flourishing condition in this Colony, where it was of such benefit to the players—himself included. Much applause greeted Mr. Whitehead's remarks.

After the toasts of the Navy and the various units, and also of the civilian supporters of the game, had been honoured and fittingly responded to, a very pleasant evening terminated.

The chairman's eloquence seems already to have had effect, for we hear that enquiries for polo ponies are being heard in various quarters, which augurs well for the success of the game in Hongkong. No doubt some additional stimulus has also been given by the International Tournament for the cups kindly presented by Mr. Cruickshank and won by the Irish team on Tuesday by four goals and two subsidiary to one subsidiary. The English team had beaten the Scots on the 29th ult. by two goals and a subsidiary to one goal. Mrs. Bertie presented the cups to the winners on the 1st inst.

The opening of the Jesselton-Beaufort railway line in British North Borneo has been delayed by heavy floods which have done serious damage to the earthworks. The opening will probably come off at the end of this month.

R. G. A. REGIMENTAL SPORTS.

Fine weather favoured the Royal Garrison Artillery regimental sports in the Happy Valley on the 3rd inst. There was a large attendance of spectators, principally, of course, military, and a most enjoyable day was spent. To the indefatigable energy of Captain Clapham, R.G.A., president of the committee, a great part of the success that attended the meeting is due. The band of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers was present and played at intervals during the afternoon.

Appended are the results:—

- 1.—HALF-MILE FLAT RACE. Open to H. K. S. B. R. A. only. Prizes, 1st \$6, 2nd \$3, and 3rd \$2.
1 Rang Ali
2 Ala Buksh
3 Ghulam Mahomed
- 2.—HALF-MILE FLAT RACE (Handicap). Prizes, 1st \$10, 2nd \$5, and 3rd \$3.
1 Cor. McLennan
2 Gun. Downey
3 Bom. Hall
- 3.—LONG JUMP. Prizes, 1st \$8, 2nd \$6, and 3rd \$4.
1 Bom. Hussey
2 Gun. Reilley
3 Gun. Foley
- 4.—PUTTING THE WEIGHT. Prizes, 1st \$4, 2nd \$4, and 3rd \$2.
1 Gun. Hewett, 34ft. 3in.
2 Sergt. Cleave
3 Gun. Maloney
- 5.—ONE-MILE FLAT RACE. Prizes, 1st \$15, 2nd \$10, and 3rd \$6.
1 Gun. Baylor
2 Corpl. McLennan
3 Gun. Downey
- 6.—TRUMPETERS' RACE. 120 Yards Flat. Prizes, 1st \$4, 2nd \$2, and 3rd \$1.
Trp. Simmons
- 7.—SEMI-FINAL TUG-OF-WAR, European Garrison and Royal Navy by Ships. Prize, \$40.
1 R.M.A., H.M.S. *Glory*
2 62nd Co., R.G.A.
- 8.—HURDLE RACE. 120 yards. 10 flights. Prizes, 1st \$10, 2nd \$5, and 3rd \$3.
1 Sergt. Wallis
2 Gun. Guest
3 Bom. Hall
- 9.—THROWING THE CRICKET BALL. Prizes, 1st \$6, 2nd \$4, and 3rd \$2.
1 Gun. Conway
2 Bom. Hussey
3 Gun. Anderson
- 10.—PUTTING THE WEIGHT. H. K. S. B. R. A. only. Prizes, 1st \$6, 2nd \$4, and 3rd \$2.
1 Gun. Maula Bux
2 Gun. Pirna
3 Gun. Chundoo
- 11.—HIGH JUMP. Prizes, 1st \$8, 2nd \$4, and 3rd \$2.
1 Bom. Hall, 4ft. 10in.
2 Gun. Maloney
3 Gun. Foley
- 12.—BOYS AND GIRLS' RACE (R.G.A. only) under 10 years. Handicap. Prizes, 1st \$3, 2nd \$2, and 3rd \$1.
1 Master F. Flood.
2 Master A. Flood.
3 Master Frost.
4 Master E. Flood.
- 13.—100 YARDS' FLAT RACE. Prizes, 1st \$12, 2nd \$6, and 3rd \$3.
1 Sergt. Wallis
2 Gun. Guest
3 Gun. Foley
- 14.—WHEEL RACE. 9-Pdr. Gun Wheel. 1st \$8, 2nd \$4, and 3rd \$2.
1 Gun. Hough
2 Bom. Reynolds
3 Corpl. Hinds
- 15.—THROWING THE HAMMER. Prizes, 1st \$8, 2nd \$4, and 3rd \$2.
Competition unfinished.
- 16.—TILTING THE BUCKET. Teams of two. Prizes, 1st \$8, 2nd \$6, and 3rd \$4.
Dead-heat { Barrett and Leyshon.
 { Chinnery and Rivers.
Ancliffe and Guthrie.
- 17.—QUARTER-MILE FLAT RACE. Prizes, 1st \$12, 2nd \$8, and 3rd \$4.
1 Sergt. Wallis
2 Gun. Baylor
3 Gun. Guest

18.—POTATO RACE. 8 Potatoes 6 Yards apart. Prizes, 1st \$6, 2nd \$4, and 3rd \$2.
1 Bom. Hall
2 Gun. Ahearne
3 Gun. Conway

19.—VETERANS' RACE. 200 yards, 2 yards start for every year over 12 (minimum 12 years' service). Prizes, 1st \$10, 2nd \$5.
1 Sergt. Hawkins
2 Sergt. Sandells

20.—OFFICERS' RACE. 120 Yards (Handicap), 1 yard start for every year over 8 years service. A Cup.
1 Lieut. Macdonald.

21.—FOUR-LEGGED RACE. Prizes, 1st \$9, 2nd \$6, and 3rd \$3.
1 Gun. Foley's combination.

22.—TEAM RACE. Half-Mile Flat. Five from each Company. Marks to count as in Cross Country Races. Prizes, 1st \$12, 2nd \$8, 3rd \$6, and 4th \$4.
1 Gun. McMahon
2 Corpl. McLennan
3 Gun. Downey
4 Gun. Foley

23.—COSTUME RACE in Ricksha, 200 yards. Prizes, 1st \$6 and 2nd \$4. Best Costume, 1st \$6 and 2nd \$4.
McCardle and Alexander divided the prizes

24.—TUG-OF-WAR, Final. British Companies, R.G.A. Prize \$40.
1 62nd Co., R.G.A.

25.—BAND RACE. 220 Yards' Handicap (to be handicapped by Bandmaster). Prizes, 1st \$8, 2nd \$4, and 3rd \$2.
1 Andrews
2 Gregory
3 Enott

26.—SERGEANTS' RACE. 120 Yards Handicap. Open to all members of R.G.A. Sergeants' Mess. 1 yard start for every year over 10 years' service. Prizes, 1st \$10 and 2nd \$5.
1 Sergt. Wallis
2 Sergt. Robinson

27.—SACK RACE. Prizes, 1st \$8, 2nd \$6, 3rd \$4, and 4th \$2.
1 Gun. Vale
2 Gun. Barrett
3 Corpl. Hinds
4 Gun. Craythorne

28.—BALACLAVA MELEE. Prizes, 1st \$12 and 2nd \$5.
1 Gun. Ancliffe
2 Gun. Barrett

29.—HALF-MILE FLAT RACE. Open to Royal Navy and European Garrison and Police. Prizes, 1st \$15, 2nd \$10, and 3rd \$5.
1 Andrews
2 McMahon
3 Quinn

30.—OBSTACLE RACE. Prizes, 1st \$12, 2nd \$8, 3rd \$6, 4th \$4, and 5th \$2.
1 Gun. Craythorne
2 Bom. Rickman
3 Gun. Reilley
4 Gun. Caldwell
5 Gun. Barrett

31.—TUG OF WAR, Final. H. K. S. B. B. A. Prize, \$30.
1 No. 3 Co.

32.—TUG OF WAR, Final. Open to Royal Navy, European, Garrison, and Police. Prize, \$40.
R.M.A., H.M.S. *Glory*

33.—CONSOLATION RACE, 220 Yards Flat, open to unplaced competitors of R.G.A. only. Prizes, 1st \$8, 2nd \$4, 3rd \$2, and 4th \$1.
1 Gun. Gratrix
2 Gun. Harvey
3 Gun. Cole
4 Gun. Reilley

34.—TUG OF WAR. Sergeants R.G.A. Married v. Single, Prize—A Cup.
1 Single Sergeants

In addition to the above, a cup was presented by H.E. the General Officer Commanding, to be given to the competitor obtaining most marks; this distinction was gained by Sergeant Wallis. The Challenge Cup for the Company with the greatest number of points was won by the 62nd. Admiral Grenfell gave a special prize of \$5 for a race between children under eight years. At the close of the day the prizes were presented by Mrs. James, for whom, and also for Major-General Gascoigne, cheers were given.

COMMITTEE.

President:—Captain Clapham, R.G.A.—
Members:—Lieut. Macdonald, R.G.A., Lieut.

Langton, R.G.A., Lieut. Dickens, R.G.A., Lieut. Edmondson, R.G.A., Sergt. Camp, Sergt. Woods, Reg. Q.M.S. Flood, Sergt. Cleave, Gunner Kenny, Gunner Irish, Gunner McMahon.

THE REBELLION IN SOUTH CHINA.

The N.C. Daily News has the following among its Notes on Native Affairs:—

Despatches to hand from Canton state that Viceroy Tao Mu of that city has received accounts concerning the progress of the rebellion in the South, which first began in January last in the sub-prefecture of Yulin—which was also the first to rise in the winter of 1899. The Yulin rising was an insignificant one at first, but the movement became important soon afterwards by the insurgents being reinforced by a large force of disbanded soldiery who were well provided with modern arms and ammunition. The Government troops were then defeated and the troops sent from Kwangtung to assist the Kwangsi forces were driven back within their own frontiers. Encouraged by the reverses of the Government troops, the insurrection spread east and west, north and south, involving no less than four provinces, namely—Kwangtung, Kwangsi, Yunnan and Kweichow. The climax came when some 20,000 Kwangsi troops, raised by General Feng Tze-tsai in 1900, to go to the rescue of the Empress Dowager, were in February last turned over to Marshal Su to be gradually disbanded. These troops, who had been well armed with magazine rifles to enable them to cope with the Allies in the North, refused to give up their arms and ammunition before their six months' arrears of pay, with bonus as travelling expenses, which had been promised them by the high authorities of Kwangsi, had been first paid over to them. Marshal Su, as already stated in these columns in a previous issue, then tried to use coercion, bringing up his own troops to overawe the discontented Kwangsi men. As already known, the latter defied Marshal Su and marched off with flying colours to join the insurgents before his very nose. The rebels are reported to be not only well-led, but well-organised by officers who have had their education at the military academies. The crisis is considered a grave one, and with the desertions that have been going on wholesale amongst the Government forces to join their former comrades now in the rebel camps, the troops at the disposal of the high authorities of the Two Kwang and Yun-Kwei provinces are quite in the minority.

THE FRANCO-RUSSIAN AGREEMENT.

The following is the full text of the agreement providing for joint action between Russia and France with regard to China and Corea:—

Les Gouvernements alliés de la France et de la Russie ayant reçu communication de la Convention Anglo-Japonaise du 30 Janvier 1902, conclue dans le but d'assurer le status quo et la paix générale en Extrême-Orient et de maintenir l'indépendance de la Chine et de la Corée qui doivent rester ouvertes au commerce et à l'industrie de toutes les nations, ont été pleinement satisfaits d'y trouver l'affirmation des principes essentiels qu'ils ont eux-mêmes à plusieurs reprises déclaré constituer, et qui demeurent la base de leur politique.

Les deux Gouvernements estiment que le respect de ces principes est en même temps une garantie de leurs intérêts spéciaux en Extrême-Orient. Toutefois, obligés d'envisager, eux aussi, le cas où soit l'action agressive de tierces Puissances, soit de nouveaux troubles en Chine, mettant en question l'intégrité et le libre développement de cette Puissance, deviendraient une menace pour leurs propres intérêts, les deux Gouvernements alliés se réservent d'aviser éventuellement aux moyens d'en assurer la sauvegarde.

TRANSLATION.

The Allied Government of France and of Russia having received communication of the Anglo-Japanese Convention of January 30th, 1902, entered into with the object of preserving

the *status quo* and general peace in the Far East, and of maintaining the independence of China and Corea, which countries are to remain open to the commerce and industry of all nations, have been fully satisfied in finding in the said Convention the affirmation of the essential principles which they themselves have on several occasions stated as constituting, and which remain, the lines of their policy.

The two Governments are of opinion that the respect of those principles is at the same time a safeguard for their own special interests in the Far East. However, they also being compelled to foresee the case in which either an aggressive action on the part of third Powers, or fresh troubles in China jeopardising the integrity and free development of the latter Power, might become a menace to their own interests, the two Allied Governments will reserve their eventual action in devising means of safeguarding those interests.

THE LAUNCH "RANGER."

The new Coastguard and Transportation steamer *Ranger* has arrived in Manila, having made the voyage from Hongkong in 3 days, 23 hours, running easy. Two attempts were made, says the *Manila Times*, to get the boat away from Hongkong, the second proving successful. The first time came near proving disastrous. For some reason, possibly through ignorance, the engineer had not blocked-up the air pump according to instructions, and when the ship was fully ninety miles off the land, there was more than four feet of water in the hold; and as a consequence the fires in the furnaces were extinguished. A heavy sea was running at the time and the ship naturally fell into the trough and wallowed. All hands were kept in the hold bailing, while the engineer endeavoured to repair his air-pump and stop the leakage. The boat had nearly 1,100 crates of potatoes aboard and she was a little top heavy so that she rolled her rails under and the crew expected many times she would never come up again. The *Ranger* had no jib, no sail of any description to steady her in the sea-way, but by heroic work, they managed to work the boat back to Hongkong, where the Chinese crew immediately had "cold feet" and quit the ship. A new crew was shipped and Captain Taylor started again. This time some of the cargo was taken off, for the ship had been top-heavy before, and the voyage across was made with no incident. The *Ranger* was built in 1896 by the Kowloon Dock Company, and has been engaged in the West River run. She can do 11 knots easy. Water-tight compartments and electric lights are two of her main features. Castle Bros., Wolf and Sons, through whom the boat was purchased, are deserving of credit in selecting such a bargain.

THE RAJAH OF PATANI.

A correspondent writes to the *Malay Mail*—

For some time we lived in a house next to the Rajah of Patani's compound, and so came into intimate contact with him on numerous occasions, and he frequently discussed his position with considerable freedom. He is a man of about twenty-seven years of age, of pleasing manners and very considerable intelligence, and at the time of our arrival was busily engaged in learning to speak English. His principal grievance at that time was that the Siamese officials could not speak Malay and were, in many cases, not "*orang Siam betul*" but merely Singora Siamese, for whom the Malays have a fine contempt. From what he then told us, he would have been perfectly satisfied if the country had been nominally governed in his name in the same way that Perak is, as he expressed it himself. Later on we proceeded up-country, and the Rajah paid a visit to Singapore. We did not spend any considerable time in Patani until September, but, while still in the interior, we heard the wildest rumours, and it was evident that the minds of the Malays were in a very disturbed condition, a very general impression being prevalent that a British Protectorate would shortly be proclaimed. On our return to Patani, a certain Malay visited us and

informed us that he had been sent by the British authorities to report upon the country and to conclude a treaty with the Rajah, and he asked us to give him a "writing," which of course we declined to do. He pestered us a good deal, and at last offered to show us his credentials which, on inspection, showed nothing more than that he had at one time been a *penghulu* in the Federated Malay States. It may be as well to state that he falsely represented himself to be a certain Tunka Abdurhassan, a well-known Malay of good position in these parts, with whom my friend was personally acquainted. We, however, thought it well to warn the Rajah that he would probably get himself into trouble. But, though obviously very nervous, he seemed quite certain that a British Protectorate was bound to come. He begged us not to go up-country, as there was certain to be danger there, and he told us, amongst other things, that Mr. Skeat was shortly expected, though in what capacity seemed somewhat uncertain. We left the town next day and heard very little of what took place, though some very absurd letters found their way into publication.

HOUSE-TAX DISTRAINT IN YOKOHAMA.

The *Kobe Herald* of the 26th ult. says:—The Yokohama City authorities pushed on with the process of distraining yesterday, the officers proceeding to Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. and several other firms. Some raw silk was seized at Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co.'s. A message to the Japanese papers further states that some foreigners are alarmed at the action taken by the authorities and are making enquiries at the office as to the amount they have to pay. With reference to the possibility of the local authorities distraining, it will interest our readers to know that even if action has to be taken to enforce payment nothing will be done before the end of the month. There is therefore no reason to apprehend unpleasant developments during the Easter holidays. A representative of this journal was informed by the Mayor this afternoon that although the final notices of the City office were dated the 22nd they were not delivered until the 23rd or 24th (Monday); consequently the period of seven days will not expire until the 31st inst. Meanwhile the local authorities do not expect to be compelled to distrain, feeling confident that some understanding acceptable to a majority of the foreign perpetual leaseholders will be reached shortly. What understanding is in view, we are not in a position to say. Possibly a provisional settlement might be arrived at on the basis of an understanding or pledge given by the Mayor or other equally responsible official that the monies collected will be immediately refunded if the result of arbitration is a decision upholding the foreign view.

The Yokohama papers give particulars of the proceedings of the Yokohama authorities on the 25th ult. when distraint was carried out on the property of several foreigners held liable for the House-tax.

The *Japan Gazette* says the amounts collected were approximately as follows:—No. 1, Former Settlement—Jardine, Matheson & Co., for 1,882,455 Yen raw silk amounting to 333 kin (about 3,000 Yen in value.)

No. 1 Mr. William Keswick, 78,733 Yen
No. 2-B Mr. A. H. Dare, 74,937 Yen
No. 3 Mr. R. D. Robinson, 235,927 Yen
No. 5-A, Y'hama United Club, 241,286 Yen
No. 2 Bluff, Mr. F. Staniland, 73,000 Yen
No. 28 Bluff, Mr. Alfred Unger, 25,000 Yen
No. 19 Bluff, Mr. B. A. Munster, 20,000 Yen

The total amount is stated at 2,634,338 Yen. The *Japan Herald* gives the following details:—

At half past ten this morning, (25th ult.) the Secretary of the Kencho, accompanied by two municipal officers, and several bailiffs, entered the premises, No. 1, owned by Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. The Secretary, through an interpreter, requested Mr. Keswick, the representative of the firm, to pay the amount of the House-tax, and exhibited his authority from the Mayor to distrain. Mr. Keswick formally refused to do so, and replied that the officials would have to proceed to distraint.

The officials then asked to see the office safe, which was shown them and the safe being locked Mr. Keswick was then requested to open it. He refused to do so, unless ordered. It was then unlocked by Mr. Riddle, the cashier, but it contained neither money, shares, stock, nor negotiable securities. The officials then stated that as there was no cash or securities they would have to seize the furniture or merchandise. Mr. Keswick then took the officials to the godown, and showed them the contents thereof which consisted of bales of raw silk, flour, and other goods. As the most valuable, the officials seized six bales of raw silk, valued at Y3,000, in order to cover a demand of Y1,882,455—thus allowing for a very liberal margin.

The goods were not removed from the godown, but the seal of the Kencho was placed on them and Mr. Keswick was informed that if the money was paid within ten days the merchandise would be restored to the firm. The document authorising the officers to distrain was in Japanese and was retained by the officials, but the distraint order, which was in English, was left with Mr. Keswick, with a receipt endorsed thereon for the six bales of raw silk seized. The officials were exceedingly courteous in carrying out their unpleasant duties and there was perfect good feeling on both sides.

Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Co. are now awaiting instructions from their Head Office in Hongkong, and the British Minister, who have been wired to in connection with the distraint.

Distraint was also made on the following house-owners, where in all cases the tax was paid: Mr. A. H. Dare, No. 2; Yokohama United Club; Mr. F. Staniland, No. 2 Bluff; Mr. Alfred Unger, No. 5 Bluff; Mr. B. A. Munster, No. 19 Bluff.

THE TIENTSIN LAND DISPUTE.

It would seem to be the peculiar fate of retrospective rules ever to end in trouble, says the *P. & T. Times*. Many impartial observers thought that in the Consular proclamations by which the French, Italians and Russians extended or acquired their Settlements in Tientsin there were the germs of future contention. We refer of course to the clauses which said that no land transfers would be recognised which had been effected after June 17th, 1900. It was obvious to everybody that the object, and a very proper one, of these clauses was to stop bogus purchases and illicit transactions after the acquisition of the land by its new owners was *un fait accompli*; no one could reasonably object to a rule which was clearly meant to checkmate rogues, but unhappily the prohibition was worded in such a way as to interfere with honest as well as with dishonest men and therein it was both unjust and oppressive, and bound to lead to trouble.

There are several cases in which foreigners immediately after the 'troubles' made *bona fide* purchases of land from natives, who either from distress or fear were eager to sell. The procedure was regular in every way but one, and that one impossible to obviate—the sale could not be registered at the land-transfer office of the Yamén for the simple reason that such office was closed, and the Provisional Government was unwilling to start another. We need not point out to our readers that the essence of a land purchase consists in the payment of the money and in the transfer of the title deeds, and not in the registration, which at best is but official and collateral proof. In Chinese land-jobbing, the chief function of registration is that it gives the buyer additional security that the seller is the proper owner, and that the land is in the position it is asserted to be. In the case of fraud, registration makes the seller more easily open to conviction. No consul has the faintest right to proclaim a perfectly legal transaction wrong or informal by his *ipse dixit*. The only conceivable defence for the procedure followed would be "right of conquest" anterior to the purchase, and though the French local authorities have not hesitated to put forward this claim informally, we have every confidence that it is not upheld in Paris, and that it will not be available. The claim as made is both a violation of law and morals.

If a German or an American in good faith,

and by honest payment, bought a piece of Chinese land in August, 1900, say to the West of the Medical School. The French Consul was acting quite beyond his power by proclaiming in September that he would not recognise the purchase. The French Consul cannot tamper with the law of Germany or the United States, even if he ventures to take undue liberties with that of China and France. *Post hoc* or retrospective legislation or rule is tabooed by the practice of all nations, and justly so. No one would have the slightest objection to, Consular interference with pseudo purchase but we hope every consul in the place will oppose this preposterous claim in the case of honest buying before the date of the proclamation. Things have been carried with far too high a hand in the French Concession of late and the fine old French sense of fair-play has been obscured by greed and by petty tyranny towards the helpless and innocent.

We are quite confident that if Paris is put in possession of the facts there will be a repudiation of much of the action of the last year or two; we hope that some earnest politician or journalist will take this matter up and restore the good name of France. The French people are assuredly the very last in the world to tolerate injustice, and we are confident they will not do so in Tientsin any more than they would in Toulouse. During the last six months we have refrained from making reference to cases which closely resemble sheer confiscation, simply because we could not believe them to be true. Our scepticism is being rapidly undermined by the hard logic of facts.

HONGKONG.

Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, C.M.G., the Colonial Secretary, leaves Hongkong on the 23rd instant, we understand, to assume his new duties as Commissioner of Weihaiwei.

Though scarcely up to the standard of last year's cantata, Hopkins's *Calvary*—everything considered—was very well rendered on Good Friday by St. Peter's choir. The church was well filled. Mr. H. L. Stringer, on whom all the hard work of preparation fell, conducted. Mr. H. Sykes was organist.

At the annual general meeting of the members of the Parsee community held at their Club on the 29th ult. under the chairmanship of Mr. H. N. Mody, Mr. Mancherji M. Mehta, manager of Messrs. Tata & Co., and Mr. Dorabji Nowroji, an old and much respected resident, were elected trustees of the Parsee Charity Funds in place of Messrs H. M. Mehta and F. D. Setna, resigned.

The return of deaths in the Colony during February includes 23 in the European and foreign community (civilians 17, Army 2, Navy 4), and 332 in the Chinese community. 128 in all succumbed to chest affections, 2 to malarial fever, and 5 to small-pox. The principal death-rates were:—British and foreign civil community, 21.3 per 1,000 per annum; Chinese, Victoria, land 14.8, harbour 17.6; Chinese, whole Colony, land 13.5, boat 17.8, land and boat 10.6; civil community 14.4.

Mr. John Hastings, solicitor, has reported to the police that on the 30th ult., while his yacht *Dorothy* was lying at anchor in Deep Bay, off Nim Wan, his "boy" got adrift in a small skiff which had been fastened to the yacht by means of the painter, and has not been seen since. On receipt of the news, a police launch searched the waters in the vicinity of Deep Bay, but without finding trace of the missing skiff, which, unless it has been cast ashore or sunk, is believed to have drifted in the direction of Macao.

We have to record the death of Mr. Jamssetjee Jamsjee Oonwalla (known as J. Jamsjee), cotton and yarn-broker, which occurred at his residence No. 39, Peel Street on the 28th ult. By his death the Parsee community of Hongkong has been stripped of its oldest and most competent cotton and yarn-broker. The deceased was 67 years old, and arrived here about 40 years ago. He lost the sight of both eyes some five years ago. The funeral took place on the 29th ult., and was attended by almost all the Parsees here, and also by representatives of the leading Mahomedan firms, as a mark of respect for the deceased.

At the Supreme Court on the 2nd inst. Hon. A. G. Wise made his first appearance in his new rôle of Acting Attorney-General.

A friendly bowling match on the 29th ult. between the Hongkong Club and the Club Germania resulted in favour of the former by 26 points. The teams were almost the same as in the recent match for the Shield. The game was contested on both clubs' alleys.

The appointments are notified in the *Gazette* of the Hon. W. Meigh Goodman, K.C., to be Chief Justice and of His Honour A. G. Wise, LL.B., to be Acting Attorney-General.

Fire broke out shortly after midnight on Thursday in a fruiterer's shop at 75, Station Street, Yaumatei. The brigade turned out under Chief Inspector Mackie, but five houses were completely destroyed and two damaged by fire and water before the outbreak was extinguished. The losses are not covered by insurance, but the house-holders concerned were able to save nearly all their goods, and so greatly limited the damage. The fire is supposed to have originated through carelessness in the burning of joss-sticks.

The sermons both at matins and evensong, at St. John's Cathedral, on Easter Sunday were preached by the Rev. R. F. Cobbold, M.A., who left for home on Saturday. During the ten years he has been Chaplain to the Cathedral Mr. Cobbold has done splendid work, and he will be greatly missed. In his sermons the preacher thanked all those who had in any way helped him in his labours. Seldom have the choir, whose numbers had been augmented by several ladies, sung better, and the beautiful music had its effect in imparting to the congregation a feeling appropriate to the occasion. At the morning service the Te Deum was Stanford in B flat, the anthem "Awake, thou that sleepest" (Stainer, *Daughter of Jairus*), and the communion service Stainer in F. Ward's Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis and the "Hallelujah Chorus" (Handel's *Messiah*) were given at night. The altar and chancel were beautifully and tastefully decorated with flowers and palms.

There was a good attendance at the Sailors' Institute, Kowloon, on the 2nd inst. when the Ethiopian Minstrel Troupe made their appearance with an interesting programme. The troupe is largely drawn from H. M. ships in reserve, and consequently suffers considerably from the constant changes in its personnel. Notwithstanding these difficulties the company continues to do good work and the entertainment on the 2nd inst. was quite up to the average of previous ones, as the frequent applause testified. Ireland's and Cater's songs and the stump speeches of Mr. Kessick were perhaps the most popular items on the programme. The "big boot" dancing of J. Crabb was well received, as were also the banjo solos of T. Codd. There was an animated debate at the close on "The Abolition of the Toasting Fork" which contributed considerably to the hilarity of the assemblage, and brought an interesting gathering to a close. The proceeds were devoted to a fund being raised for painting and making some necessary alterations in the Institute.

Mr. Alec Marsh has arranged to give his farewell concert in St. Andrew's Hall, on Thursday next, the 10th inst., at 9 p.m. He will be assisted by the leading local amateurs, and will receive the patronage of H.E. Sir William Gascoigne and Lady Gascoigne. An excellent programme of high-class music is being prepared, for naturally the well-known baritone is being warmly supported by his numerous musical friends, not a few of whom as his former pupils owe much of their success to his careful and able training. Since he arrived in the Colony some time ago from London, Mr. Alec Marsh has done much to promote the cultivation of good music, and, though a distinguished professional, has never hesitated to assist in our local musical events, often free of charge; he was always a conspicuous figure at the military and naval concerts for the soldiers and sailors and has taken a regular and an active part in Church music. For these reasons, in addition to the excellent programme we may expect, his concert should be warmly supported. The booking arrangements are in the hands of the Robinson Piano Co. Mr. Marsh goes home for the Coronation, and hopes to return to the East.

Mr. Evan Ormiston has been appointed acting manager of the Mercantile Bank of India, Ltd.

The Rugby match on the 27th ult. between the Hongkong Football Club and H.M.S.S. *G'ory* and *Terrible* ended in a decisive victory for the Club by 21 points to nil.

The Bishop of Victoria left for home by the *Oriental* on the 29th ult. Amongst those who went to the steamer to see him off were Sir Thomas Jackson and Miss Jackson, Archdeacon Banister, Revs. E. J. Hardy, R. F. Cobbold, W. T. Southam, E. H. Good, G. A. Baubury, Lient Cargill and Messrs. J. Barton, F. B. L. Bowley, and A. Bryer.

In writing last February to the Acting Postmaster-General in Hongkong, taking note of his appointment after the late Commander W. C. H. Hastings's death, the Postmaster-General in London asked Mr. E. Cornwall Lewis to convey expressions of deep sympathy to any members of Commander Hastings's family who might be in Hongkong. This is a very unusual step, but a well deserved tribute to our late Postmaster-General.

On the recommendation of the Captain Superintendent of Police, H.E. the Officer Administering the Government has been pleased to make the following promotions in the Police Force:—Second-class Inspector McNab to the First-class, *vice* Inspector Kemp, retired; Third-class Inspector Gauld to the Second-class, *vice* Inspector McNab, promoted; to date from 18th February. The following further promotions take effect from the 1st inst.:—Serjeants Withers, Gourlay, Ritchie, and Diamond to be Acting Inspectors; P. C.'s 104 (Eyre) 18 (Perkins), 61 (Ablington), and 5 (Lee) to be Lance-Sergeants.

On the 2nd ult. a meeting was held of the committee of the Singapore Chess Club to consider the challenge of the Hongkong Chess Club to play two games by telegraph, and as a result the challenge has been accepted. The final arrangements are now under discussion and a start may be expected in about a fortnight's time. In the previous match played some years ago Singapore won, one of the games being lost to Hongkong by a move despatched in too great a hurry. A reversal of the former verdict is hoped for.—The Gambit Tournament at the Club has commenced, all the seven competitors meeting in one section, as sufficient entries were not received to form two sections.

H.M.S. *Astron* left for home on the 27th ult. and had a hearty send-off from the men-of-war in the harbour. H.M. cruiser *Blenheim* arrived from Amoy, and the French flag-ship *D'Entrecasteaux* from Kwongchauwan.

H.M.S. *Albion* returned from a cruise on the 29th ult. H.M. storeship *Hupber* left for Weihaiwei on the 28th ult.

On the 2nd inst. the French cruiser *Friant* arrived from Shanghai.

On the 3rd inst. H.M.S. *Alucity* left for Amoy and the German cruiser *Bussard* for Kiaochau.

MISCELLANEOUS.

There is a rumour that the new Bishopric of Shantung has been offered to the Rev. Napier Trollope, who is Bishop Corfe's right-hand man in Corea.

A London despatch to the *Mainichi*, dated the 19th ult., says:—The abandonment of Weihaiwei was discussed in the House of Lords last night and Lord Selborne defended the change of policy and said it was wholly unconnected with the Anglo-Japanese Agreement.

It is stated that simultaneously with the recent arrest at Hiroshima of Colonel Aways and other Japanese officers on the charge of being concerned in the looting in North China, General Yamaguchi, commander of the Hiroshima Army Division, sent in his resignation. The matter is, however, being kept secret by the Japanese authorities.

In consequence of the extensive forgery of Korean nickel coins, Mr. McLeavy Brown, Superintendent of the Customs, has issued instructions to the officials at the open ports to confiscate all nickel that may be seized while being smuggled in by either Koreans or foreigners. In the case of foreigners the Consuls are to be notified and requested to expel the offenders from Korean territory.

The Hon. W. T. Taylor, the newly appointed Colonial Secretary for the Straits Settlements, arrived in Singapore by the *König Albert* on the 27th ult.

Dr. Heintges, German Vice-Consul at Singapore, has been appointed Consul for Germany at Saigon, and leaves Singapore about the middle of April to take up the duties of his new post. This is the first time an official German Consul has been appointed at Saigon, the office having previously been held by the head of a firm in that city.

The Nippon Yusen Kaisha's steamer *Sendai Maru*, Capt. K. Higo, 1,729 tons, which left Kobe on the 16th ult. for Taku via Moji, Nagasaki, and Chefoo, struck a rock at Taro Island near Mokpo on the 19th ult. and sank. The passengers and mails were saved and landed at Fusan. The steamer *Jinsen Maru* was to take on the passengers for Chefoo and Pientsin.

The Manager of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China informs us that the Bank on the 27th ult. received the following telegram from their head office in London:—"At the approaching meeting of shareholders the directors will recommend a dividend for the past half-year at 10 per cent. per annum, free of Income Tax, that £75,000 be placed to reserve, which will then stand at £650,000, that £40,000 be carried forward as undivided profit, and that a bonus of 15 per cent. be paid to the staff of the Bank."

The *Singapore Free Press* understands that consideration is being given by the Government of Cambodia, Cochinchina, Laos, Annam, and Tonkin to extended harbour development for those Colonies, in connection with the railways projected by M. Doumer. The scheme contemplates improvements in the harbours of Saigon, Tourane, and Haiphong to cost a hundred million dollars, roughly. Beside this enormous expenditure, says the Straits paper, the cost of our proposed improvements are small indeed. But, as is the way in British Colonies it has all to be done out of local revenue, and there is no chance of grants-in-aid from the Mother Country.

The Bangkok Gazette's notification of the deposition of the real Rajah and the appointment of the Rajah Pitak to the position of ruler, is to the following effect in English:—"Inasmuch as Phya Vichit Bhakdi (Abdul Kadir), the governor (Phya) of Patani, has acted in a way not befitting his dignity and duty as governor (Phya) of Muang Patani, it has pleased His Majesty to depose the said Phya Vichit Bhakdi, and to deprive him of the dignity, position and power of governor of Muang Patani, from the date of this notification, the 6th of March, 120." This is following by another notification to the following effect:—"As the post of governor (Phya) of Patani is vacant and as Phya Pitak Tamasunthron Norintr Bhakdi, a high official in that province, is faithful and steadfast and experienced as befits the governor of Patani, so therefore His Majesty the King has been pleased to appoint the said Phya Pitak governor (Phya) of Patani with all the dignities, duties and powers of that position as laid down in the Regulations for the government of the seven Malay provinces, which became law this year, 120."

The Tokyo correspondent of the *N.-C. Daily News* telegraphed on the 23rd inst.:—"Japanese journalistic opinion is somewhat divided concerning the Franco-Russian declaration, some finding therein a frank admission to the purposes of the Anglo-Japanese Agreement and therefore an additional guarantee for peace, others asking whether if such were the object it could not have been better attained by joining the Anglo-Japanese Alliance than by an independent combination. One leading paper considers that the Franco-Russian alliance is weakened for European purposes by its extension to regions where the interests of the two allies are not always identical. The belief is further expressed that the policy of alliances being now extended to the East, the Occident and Orient will each become more sensitive to political incidents in the other. Germany's isolated position is viewed with much curiosity, inasmuch as without her co-operation the Franco-Russian alliance is virtually powerless against the Anglo-Japanese whence it is assumed that Russia tried to win the co-operation of Germany but failed."

A meeting of merchants was held at Foochow on the evening of the 21st inst. who were addressed by Mr. Edward Little of Shanghai. They unanimously protested against the increase of the Import Tariff and demanded certain trade reforms:

At the annual general meeting of the Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Co., Ltd., on the 25th ult., the reports and accounts as presented were passed and the directors and auditors were re-elected for the current year, after which a final dividend of 12 per cent. was declared, together with a bonus of 10 per cent. to the staff.

On the 27th ult. a dead shark, four feet long, was seen close up to the foot of the seawall in Praia Grande, Macao. Our correspondent supposes that in its race after some prey which was endeavouring to escape it by seeking to hide itself in between the rocks on the beach in shallow water, the shark must have got itself entangled in such a way that it failed in extricating itself from one of nature's own traps. With the ebbing of the tide it was found to have made itself a prisoner in the manner described. The appearance of this fish in these waters cannot be of very frequent occurrence. The dead one attracted quite a large crowd, both of Europeans and Chinese, eager to get a view of it.

On the 20th ult. the French and Russian Ministers at Tokyo presented the new Franco-Russian declaration, relating to the Far East, to Baron Komura, the Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs. According to Japanese reports, it is believed at Peking that the object of the Franco-Russian Alliance is the recovery of the influence over the Chinese which has been lost since the Anglo-Japanese Convention was signed. The officials of the Foreign Office appear, however, to regard it with indifference. A telegram to the *Asahi* dated Peking, March 24th, says:—"In discussing the Franco-Russian Alliance, the Emperor remarked to Wang Wen-shao, that it was only a sham diplomatic affair and was not really intended to secure peace; but the Dowager Empress, who happened to be near by, affirmed that the alliance was also said to be due to a friendly attitude towards China and that peace might be expected to result from such alliances. Her Majesty said there would be no serious disturbance in the near future. Her Majesty was evidently highly pleased with the news."

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1900-1	1899-00
	lbs.	lbs.
Yokohama	23,791,847	25,065,357
Kobe	—	—
Hiogo	—	—
	23,791,847	25,065,357

SILK.

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

	1900-1901	1899-00
	bales.	bales.
Shanghai	51,599	44,291
Yokohama	20,818	20,494
	72,417	64,785

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.

	1900-1901	1899-00
	bales.	bales.
Shanghai	15,409	6,571
Yokohama	87,347	23,933
	52,756	30,504

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 4th April.—No arrivals.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 4th April.—There is not much change in the position of the market. Quotations are:—

Shekloong, No. 1, White.....	\$8.25 to \$8.30 pcl.
do. " 2, White.....	7.35 to 7.40 "
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown ...	5.95 to 6.00 "
do. " 2, Brown ...	5.80 to 5.85 "
Swatow, No. 1, White.....	8.15 to 8.20 "

Swatow, No. 1, White.....	7.20 to 7.25 pcl.
do. " 1, Brown ...	5.90 to 5.95 "
do. " 2, Brown ...	5.70 to 5.75 "
Foochow Sugar Candy.....	12.90 to 12.95 "
Shekloong "	9.90 to 9.95 "

RICE.

HONGKONG, 4th April.—A further decline in price is reported, market being weak. Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary.....	\$2.65 to 2.70
" Round, Good quality	3.70 to 3.75
" Long	4.05 to 4.10
Siang, Field mill cleaned, No. 2	2.75 to 2.80
" Garden, " No. 1	3.20 to 3.25
" White.....	3.80 to 3.85
" Fine Cargo	4.10 to 4.15

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 29th March.—Malwa.—About 200 changed hands at previous quotations—\$940/970.

Bengal.—Is steady but the market lacks animation. Dealers have only bought to complete orders from the country. New Patna High No.'s, i.e. 20,000 and upwards, was sold at \$915/917; Low No.'s at \$905/910. In Benares small business had transpired. Our closing quotations are:—New Patna High No.'s at 917; Low No.'s at \$910; New Benares at \$915.

Persian.—The Japanese have bought a fair quantity of superior drug at \$575.

STOCK.

Patna	3,251 1/2
Benares	705
Malwa	384
Persian	3,251 1/2

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per P. & O. steamer *Bombay* sailed on 18th March. For London:—160 bales bambooware, 631 m/pkgs. fire and cannon crackers, 54 cases Chinaware, 100 rolls matting, 12 pkgs. private effects, 14 cases preserves, 12 bales canes, 2 cases hair, 5 bales hair, 2 cases cigars, 1 case silverware and curios, 2 cases blackwood chairs and curios, 2 cases screen, 3 chests Persian opium, 1 case silks, 2 pkgs. rattan chairs, 1 case lacqd. ware, 2 cases blackwoodware, 3 cases tea, 3 cases cigars from Manila. For London/opt. Google:—250 bales waste silk. For London/opt. Manchester:—100 bales waste silk. For Manchester:—559 bales waste silk.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 4th April.—Amongst the sales reported during the week are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS.—*Bombay Yarn*: 1,350 bales No. 10 at \$86.50 to \$92.50, 1,100 bales No. 12 at \$93 to \$96, 400 bales No. 16 at \$103 to \$108, 1,350 bales No. 20 at \$108 to \$119. *White Shirtings*: 500 piculs No. 1,000 at \$2.67 1/2, 500 piculs. Green Jeans at \$3.27 1/2.

	per bale
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20s.....	\$78.00 to \$119.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24.....	114.00 to 120.00
" 22 to 24.....	120.00 to 128.00
" 28 to 32.....	136.00 to 142.00
" 38 to 42.....	155.00 to 170.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS—

	per piece.
Grey Shirtings—6 lbs.	2.10 to 2.20
7 lbs.	2.25 to 2.50
8.4 lbs.	2.90 to 3.55
9 to 10 lbs.	3.70 to 4.65
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.	2.40 to 2.70
58 to 60 "	3.15 to 4.10
64 to 66 "	4.20 to 5.00
Fine.....	5.20 to 7.40
Book-folds	4.80 to 6.50
Victoria Lawns—12 yards.....	0.73 to 1.25
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y.	1.70 to 1.90
7lbs. (32 "), "	2.00 to 2.30
6lbs. (32 "), Mexs.	2.00 to 2.15
7lbs. (32 "), "	2.80 to 3.30
8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.)	3.00 to 3.55
Drills, English—40yds., 13 1/2 to 14 lbs.	4.00 to 6.75

FANCY COTTONS—

Turkey Red Shirtings—1 1/2 to 5 lbs)	1.60 to 3.65
Brocades—Dyed	— to —

DAMASKS—

	per yard
Chintzes—Assorted	0.18 to 0.20
Velvets—Black, 22 in.	0.24 to 0.50
Velveteens—18 in.	0.22 to 0.30

Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk 0.30 to 3.00 per dozen

WOOLLENS—

	per yard
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops.....	0.65 to 2.00
German	1.25 to 3.00
Habit, Med., and Broad-Cloths	1.25 to 3.00

Long Ells—Scarlet, 7-10 lbs.	6.50	to	8.50
Assorted.....	6.60	to	8.65
Camlets—Assorted.....	12.00	to	32.00
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches	12.00	to	16.00
Assorted.....	8.00	to	9.50
Orleans—Plain.....	8.00	to	9.50
Blankets—8 to 12 lbs.	4.00	to	9.00

METALS—

Iron—Nail Rod.....	4.60	to	—
Square, Flat Round Bar (Eng.)	4.60	to	—
Swedish Bar.....	4.80	to	—
Small Round Rod.....	4.85	to	—
Hoop 1/2 to 1 1/2 in.....	6.10	to	—
Wire, 16/25.....	8.40	to	—
Old Wire Rope.....	2.40	to	—
Pig Non.....	35.50	to	36.50
Lead, L. B. & Co. and Hole Chop	8.50	to	—
Australian.....	8.40	to	—

METALS—

Yellow Metal—Muntz 14/20 oz.	41.00	to	—
Vivian's 14/20 oz.	41.00	to	—
Elliot's 14/20 oz.	41.00	to	—
Composition Nails.....	61.00	to	—
Japan Copper, Slabs.....	39.00	to	—
Tin.....	74.00	to	—
Tin-Plates.....	8.25	to	—
Steel 1/2 to 1.....	5.90	to	—

SUNDRIES—

Quicksilver.....	174.50	to	—
Window Glass.....	6.00	to	—
Kerosene Oil.....	2.10	to	—

SHARE REPORT.

HONGKONG, 4th April.—The general tone of our market is somewhat better since the resumption of business after the Easter holidays, and rates for some of the principal stocks have advanced.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have been booked at \$590 and \$592, and the market closes firm at the higher quotation. London is unchanged at £62. Nationals continue in request at \$26.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have improved to \$385 with sales. China Traders have sold and are obtainable at \$53.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs are weak at \$350 sellers. Chinas have been taken off the market at \$82.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have been in some demand at \$38 and continue steady. Indo-Chinas are weak with sellers at \$139. China Manilas have been booked at \$37, and are obtainable at the rate. Douglases have been negotiated at \$40 and \$40, and can now be placed at \$41. China Mutuals and Shell Transports are unchanged at quotations. Star Ferries can be purchased at \$24 (old) \$83 (new).

REFINERIES.—China Sugars are booked at from \$117 to \$122 and close in request at \$123. Luzons unchanged and without business.

MINING.—Punjoms are on offer at \$43. Charbonnages have advanced to \$550 with sales and further buyers. Raubs have been purchased at \$94.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have been booked \$257 1/2 to \$260, and a few more shares could probably be obtained at the higher rate. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves have been placed at \$90. New Amoy Docks are wanted at \$31.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have been purchased at \$172 1/2, \$174 and \$175, and more shares are wanted at the latter rate. Kowloon Lands have sold and are further obtainable at \$30. West Points unchanged at \$58 sellers. Humphreys Estates have sold at \$12 and are wanted. Hongkong Hotels have risen rapidly from \$130 to \$135 with sales at intermediate rates and further buyers at the latter quotation. Oriente Hotels are weak at \$50 sellers.

COTTON MILLS.—Hongkong Cottons have buyers at \$14. There are no changes to report in the northern stocks.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Island Cements have improved to \$22 with sales and buyers. Electrics are wanted at \$134 (old) and \$64 (new). Ropes have declined to \$145 sellers. Ices can be placed at \$225, and Tramways at \$330.

China Providents have sold and are in request at \$94. Watkins have declined to \$6 ex dividend. Powells are wanted at \$9.

MEMO.—Green Island Cement Co., Limited, ordinary general meeting on the 14th instant.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125	{ \$592, buyers £62, £62.
China & Japan, ordy.	£4	£1.
Do. deferred	£1	nominal.
Natl. Bank of China		
A. Shares	£8	\$26, buyers
B. Shares	£8	\$26, buyers
Foun. Shares	£1	\$10, sellers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	£1	\$1, buyers
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$21, buyers
China-Borneo Co., Ltd	\$15	\$28, sellers
China Light & Power Co., Ltd.	\$20	\$20, nominal
China Prov. L. & M.	\$10	\$91, buyers
China Sugar	\$100	\$123.
Cigar Companies—		
Alhambra Limited	\$500	\$500, nominal.
Philippine Tobacco Invest. Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$50, sellers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 100	Tls. 40.
International	Tls. 100	Tls. 25.
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 40.
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 150.
Hongkong	\$100	\$14, buyers
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$12, buyers
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$41.
Green Island Cement	\$10	\$22, buyers
H. & C. Bakery	\$50	\$40.
Hongkong & C. Gas	£10	\$140, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$131, buyers
H. H. L. Tramways	\$5	\$61, buyers
Hk. Steam Water boat Co., Ltd.	\$5	\$8.
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$135, buyers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$222, buyers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$90, sales
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$147, sellers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$260, sellers
Insurance—		
Canton	\$50	\$160, buyers
China Fire	\$20	\$82, sales
China Traders	\$25	\$53, sales & sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$350, sales
North China	\$25	Tls. 190, buyers
Straits	\$20	nominal.
Union	\$50	\$385, sales
Yangtze	\$60	\$135.
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$100	\$175, sales
Humphreys Estate	\$10	\$124, sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$30, sales & sellers
West Point Building	\$50	\$58, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$30, sellers
Manila Invest. Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$35, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$550, sales & buyers
Jelebu	\$5	\$34, sellers
Queen's Mines, Ltd.	25c.	4 cents.
Oliver's Mines, A.	\$5	nominal.
Do. B.	\$4	nominal.
Punjom	\$10	\$43, sellers
Do. Preference	\$1	\$125, sellers
Raubs	18	\$94, sales
New Amoy Dock	\$63	\$31, buyers
Oriente Hotel, Manila	\$50	\$50, sellers
Powell, Ltd.	\$10	\$9, buyers
Robinson Piano Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$55.
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila	\$50	{ \$37, sales & buy. nominal.
China Mutual Pref.	£10	£10.10s., ex div., b.
Do. Ordinary	£7.10	£7.10, ex div., slrs.
Do. Bonus	£5	£5, ex div., sellers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$41, buyers
H., Canton and M.	\$15	\$38, sales
Indo-China S. N.	£10	\$139, sellers
Shell Transport and Trading Co.	£1	£2, sellers
Star Ferry	\$10	{ \$24, sellers \$84, sellers
Tebrau Planting Co.	\$5	\$1.
United Abestos	\$4	\$10, sellers
Do.	\$10	\$250, sellers
Universal Trading Co., Ltd.	\$5	\$20, sellers
Watkins Ltd.	\$10	\$6, sales
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$144, sellers

VERNON SMYTH, & Brokers.

SHANGHAI, 26th March (from Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report). A fair amount of business was done during the week, and prices generally were well maintained. SHIPPING.—Indo-China S. N. shares were placed at Tls. 101, 100.50, and 102 cash, closing at 101.50, 101 1/102 for March, 104.50/105 for June and 106/105 for July. The China Mutual S. N. Co. paid a final dividend of 3 per cent. on preference shares (making 6 per cent. for the year) a final dividend of 4 per cent. on ordinary shares (making 7 per cent. for the year), and 3 per cent. on B shares (making 6 per cent. for 1901). MINING.—Chinese Engineering & Mining shares were sold at Tls. 9.60 to 9.35 cash, 9.35 for March, 9.30 for April, and 9.40 for June. DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—S. C. Farnham, Boyd and Co. Cash shares were placed at Tls. 260, 261.50, for the settlement at 262.50, for May at 267.5, for June at 270 and for July at 273.50/272.50. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Co., Ltd. The report and accounts for 1901 were passed at the meeting of shareholders held yesterday. The balance of working account is Tls. 379,070.19, which is Tls. 20,051.15 less than that of the previous year. The net profits are Tls. 298,740.11, equal to 19.278 per cent. on the capital, as compared with 21.28 per cent. in 1900. Including a balance of Tls. 32,703.78 brought forward, and deducting an interim dividend of 6 per cent. paid in August, there was a balance of Tls. 240,843.89 at credit of profit and loss account. A final dividend of 12 per cent. was declared, making 18 per cent. for the year, a sum of Tls. 40,000 was placed to credit of repairs account, and balance of Tls. 19,643.89 was carried forward. INDUSTRIAL.—Business was done in Major Brothers shares at Tls. 32.50; Ice shares at Tls. 22; and Pulp and Paper shares at Tls. 110 for the settlement, 107 for April and 115 for July. TUGS AND CARGO BOATS.—The Shanghai Tug-Boat Co. paid a final dividend of 5 per cent. on the 22nd instant. MISCELLANEOUS.—Shanghai Sumat a Tobacco shares were placed at Tls. 30 for cash and April delivery.—Shanghai-Langkai Tobacco Co. Shares were sold to a considerable extent at Tls. 320/330 cash, 320/325 for the settlement, 335/315 for April, 337.50/330 for June and 345/335 for July. A forced sale was made to-day at 305 cash. Hall and Holtz shares changed hands at \$38, and Telephone shares at Tls. 61. LOANS.—Debentures changed hands as follows:—Shanghai Municipal 6 per cent. at Tls. 105, Shanghai Gas 6 per cent. at 143, and Shanghai Land 6 per cent. at 103, 5.50 per cent. at 97 and 5 per cent. at 93, plus the accrued interest in all cases.

CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

SATURDAY, 5th March.

EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/9 1/2
Bank Bills, on demand	1/9 1/2
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/9 1/2
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/9 1/2
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/9 1/2
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/9 1/2
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.24 1/2
Credits, 4 months' sight	2.28
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	1.82 1/2
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	43 1/2
Credits, 60 days' sight	44 1/2
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	133
Bank, on demand	133 1/2
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	133
Bank, on demand	133 1/2
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	73 1/2
Private, 30 days' sight	74
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	14 1/2
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	14 1/2
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	1
ON BATAVIA.—	
On demand	168 1/2
ON HAIPHONG.—	
On demand	1
ON SAIGON.—	
On demand	1
ON BANGKOK.—On demand	60 1/2
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	11.10
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	57.50
BAR SILVER per oz.	24 1/2

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

FOR ANTWERP.—*Hakata Maru* (str.), *Awa Maru* (str.).
 FOR LONDON.—*Malta* (str.), *Dardanus* (str.), *Antenor* (str.), *Diomed* (str.), *Machaon* (str.), *Hakata Maru* (str.), *Awa Maru* (str.).
 FOR LIVERPOOL.—*Achilles* (str.), *Calchas* (str.).
 FOR MARSEILLES.—*Hakata Maru* (str.), *Awa Maru* (str.), *Earnest Simons* (str.).
 FOR BREMEN.—*Stuttgart* (str.).
 FOR HAVRE AND HAMBURG.—*Adria* (str.), *Saxonia* (str.), *Bamberg* (str.), *Segovia* (str.).
 FOR VICTORIA, B.C.—*Olympia* (str.), *Shinano Maru* (str.), *Kinshui Maru* (str.).
 FOR VANCOUVER.—*Empress of India* (str.), *Tartar* (str.).
 FOR NEW YORK.—*Maristow* (str.), *Aragonia* (str.).
 FOR PORTLAND (Or.).—*Indravelli* (str.).
 FOR AUSTRALIAN PORTS.—*Taiyuan* (str.), *Kumano Maru* (str.), *Airlie* (str.).
 FOR BOMBAY, VIA SINGAPORE AND COLOMBO.—*Hiroshima Maru* (str.).
 FOR SINGAPORE, PENANG AND CALCUTTA.—*Arratoon Apcar* (str.).
 FOR BOMBAY, VIA SINGAPORE AND PENANG.—*Bormida* (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

ARRIVALS.

March—

27, Rajaburi, German str., from Bangkok.
 28, Bengal, British str., from Bombay.
 28, Haimun, British str., from Tamsui.
 28, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
 28, Kutsang, British str., from Samarang.
 28, Flandria, German str., from Shanghai.
 28, Prosper, Norwegian str., from Singapore.
 28, Themis, Norwegian str., from Singapore.
 28, Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
 29, Albion, British battleship, from a cruise.
 29, Chowfa, German str., from Bangkok.
 29, Hailan, French str., from Pakhoi.
 29, Hipsang, British str., from Canton.
 29, Kinshui Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
 29, Maidzuru Maru, Jap. str., from Anping.
 29, Ness, British str., from Moji.
 29, Rocklight, British str., from Balik Papan.
 29, Saga, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.
 30, Chingtu, British str., from Australia.
 30, Ningpo, British str., from Canton.
 30, Taisang, British str., from Canton.
 30, Hansa, German str., from Saigon.
 31, Alacrity, British des.-ves., from Pakhoi.
 31, Antonio McLeod, Amr. str., from Iloilo.
 31, Mathilde, German str., put back.
 31, Arratoon Apcar, Brit. str., from Calcutta.
 31, C. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
 31, Kaifong, British str., from Iloilo.
 31, Loongmoon, German str., from Shanghai.
 31, Machaon, British str., from Liverpool.
 31, Pique, British cruiser, from Mirs Bay.
 31, Pronto, German str., from Haiphong.
 31, Sungkiang, British str., from Tientsin.
 31, Taishun, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 31, Canton, British str., from Yokohama.
 31, Hudson, British str., from Shanghai.
 31, Rubi, British str., from Iloilo.

April—

1, Bayern, German str., from Yokohama.
 1, Devawongse, German str., from Swatow.
 1, Haimun, British str., from Swatow.
 1, Kinack, British str., from Shanghai.
 1, Konig Albert, German str., from Bremen.
 1, Naukin, British str., from Shanghai.
 1, Pax, Belgian str., from Samarang.
 1, Peiyang, German str., from Saigon.
 1, Phranang, German str., from Bangkok.
 1, Skuld, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.
 1, Taksang, British str., from Chinkiang.
 1, Arnold Luyken, German str., from Saigon.
 2, Apenrade, German str., from Hoihow.
 2, Bugeaud, French cruiser, from Amoy.
 2, Daigi Maru, Japanese str., from Tamsui.
 2, Fausang, British str., from Taku.
 2, Hoihao, French str., from Pakhoi.
 2, Hongwan I, British str., from Straits.
 2, India, Austrian str., from Shanghai.
 2, Kumano Maru, Jap. str., from Yokohama.
 2, Taifu, German str., from Saigon.
 2, Thales, British str., from Pakhoi.
 3, Dotti, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.
 3, Haiching, British str., from Coast Ports.
 3, Machew, German str., from Bangkok.
 3, Socotra, British str., from London.
 3, Loongmoon, German str., from Canton.
 3, Hakata Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.

4, Ailsa Craig, British str., from Moji.
 4, Bormida, Italian str., from Bombay.
 4, Pekin, British str., from London.
 4, Taiyuan, British str., from Manila.
 5, Argonaut, British cr., from Weihaiwei.
 5, Chiyuen, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 5, Ernest Simons, Fr. str., from Shanghai.
 5, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
 5, Kashing, British str., from Chefoo.
 5, Loongsang, British str., from Manila.
 5, Loosok, German str., from Bangkok.
 5, Michael Jebser, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
 5, Sungkiang, British str., from Canton.
 5, Taito Maru, Jap. str., from Nagasaki.
 5, Taksang, British str., from Canton.
 6, Anping Maru, Jap. str., from Coast Ports.
 6, Deuterco, German str., from Saigon.
 6, Formosa, British str., from Tamsui.

March—

DEPARTURES.

28, Decima, German str., for Saigon.
 28, Eros, German str., for Bangkok.
 28, Formosa, British str., for Amoy.
 28, Lumber, H.M. storeship, for Weihaiwei.
 28, Inaba Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
 28, Kagoshima Maru, Jap. str., for S'pore.
 28, Nanchang, British str., for Tientsin.
 28, Sandakan, German str., for Sandakan.
 28, Yawata Maru, Jap. str., for Nagasaki.
 29, Amoy, German str., for Chefoo.
 29, Bengal, British str., for Shanghai.
 29, Glonlochy, British str., for Shanghai.
 29, Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
 29, Kohsichang, German str., for Bangkok.
 29, Kora, German str., for Bangkok.
 29, Mara Kolb, German str., for Moji.
 29, Oriental, British str., for Europe.
 29, Phra C. Kiao, German str., for Swatow.
 30, Daijin Maru, Jap. str., for Coast Ports.
 30, Loch Trool, British barque, for Guam.
 30, Else, German str., for Hoihow.
 30, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
 30, Hangsang, British str., for Shanghai.
 30, Holstein, German str., for Saigon.
 30, Segovia, German str., for Yokohama.
 31, Hanoi, French str., for Haiphong.
 31, Amigo, German str., for Saigon.

April—

1, Cheangchow, British str., for Amoy.
 1, Hipsang, British str., for Shanghai.
 1, Loongmoon, German str., for Canton.
 1, Taishun, Chinese str., for Canton.
 1, Taksang, British str., for Canton.
 1, Yuensang, British str., for Manila.
 2, Bayern, German str., for Europe.
 2, Chingtu, British str., for Port Darwin.
 2, Empress of China, Brit. str., for Vancouver.
 2, Hailan, French str., for Hoihow.
 2, Konig Albert, German str., for Shanghai.
 2, Laisang, British str., for Calcutta.
 2, Machaon, British str., for Shanghai.
 2, Maidzuru Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
 2, Mausang, British str., for Sandakan.
 2, Nankin, British str., for Bomlay.
 2, Petrarch, German str., for Singapore.
 2, Rocklight, British str., for Shanghai.
 2, Waterwitch, H.M. survey-ship, for a cruise.
 2, Wosung, British str., for Ningpo.
 3, Alacrity, H.M. surveying-ship, for Amoy.
 3, Bussard, German cruiser, for Kiautschou.
 3, Canton, British str., for London.
 3, Fausang, British str., for Canton.
 3, Haimun, British str., for Tamsui.
 3, Hudson, British str., for New York.
 3, Ningpo, British str., for Shanghai.
 3, Pronto, German str., for Haiphong.
 3, Sabine Rickmers, Brit. str., for Swatow.
 3, Taisang, British str., for Shanghai.
 4, Antonio McLeod, Amr. str., for Iloilo.
 4, China, German str., for Singapore.
 4, Chowfa, German str., for Bangkok.
 4, Hoihao, French str., for Hoihow.
 4, Hongmoh, German str., for Amoy.
 4, Hongwan I, British str., for Amoy.
 4, India, Austrian str., for Trieste.
 4, Lina, Norwegian str., for Chefoo.
 4, Prosper, Norwegian str., for Chefoo.
 4, Rubi, British str., for Manila.
 4, Saga, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
 4, Sullberg, German str., for Chefoo.
 4, Thales, British str., for Swatow.
 5, Amara, British str., for Singapore.
 5, Flandria, German str., for Shanghai.
 5, Hakata Maru, Japanese str., for London.
 5, Kaifong, British str., for Manila.
 5, Kong Beng, German str., for Bangkok.
 5, Kumano Maru, Jap. str., for Sydney.
 5, Kintuck, British str., for Manila.

5, Loongmoon, German str., for Shanghai.
 5, Mathilde, German str., for Haiphong.
 5, Olympia, American str., for Tacoma.
 5, Peluse, British str., for Foochow.
 5, Socotra, British str., for Shanghai.
 5, Taishun, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 6, Ailsa Craig, British str., for Moji.
 6, Apenrade, German str., for Haiphong.
 6, Daigi Maru, Japanese str., for Tamsui.

PASSENGERS LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Oriental*, from Shanghai, for Hongkong, Miss L. B. Thomas and Mr. Alec Marsh; for Singapore, Mr. S. Rey; for London, via Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. Nilson and child, Mrs. MacFarlane and child and Mr. F. F. Wardel; for Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. Maitland; for London, Mr. and Mrs. Weir, Misses J. H. B., Eliza and Evelyn Weir, Mrs. Stott, Mrs. C. S. Atkinson, Mrs. Crawford, Mr. W. and Mrs. Whistler and three children, Mr. and Mrs. Knox and four children, Mr. and Mrs. Hollander and child, Misses Cromarty, Lickerby, L. Smith and Kay, Messrs. McCallum, J. Chatham, and T. Simpson; from Kobe, for Hongkong, Mr. J. P. Hindley; for London, Mr. C. H. Fraser; from Yokohama, for Hongkong, Mr. Thomas Holland.

Per *Bengal*, for Hongkong, from London, Messrs. E. A. Bremner, C. A. Parker, C. J. Denyer, W. J. Anderson, C. E. Dahlyren, Menhemitt, W. L. Martin, C. M. Meeson, L. D. Philpot, P. W. E. Scott, J. L. Sudbury, John Barclay, J. H. Hardy and Misses J. E. Duncan, and Gibson and Commodore and Mrs. Robinson and infant; for Yokohama, Mrs. Wheeler, Mrs. Osborne and Misses Osborne, Messrs. Park, C. Mudge, and B. A. Brigg; for Shanghai, Miss Mitchell, Mrs. Waddington, Messrs. Hanney, Woolcock and Lieut. Newcome; from Marseilles, for Hongkong, Revs. A. E. Barnett and Robt Evans, Messrs. P. W. Williams, W. H. Marks, Lauder, Rodier, Mr. and Mrs. C. S. P. Clenton and maid, for Yokohama, Mr. J. Matsumoto, Mr. S. W. Cartwright; for Manila, Mr. and Mrs. D. M. Clarke; for Kobe, Mr. J. N. Pennington; for Shanghai, Mr. C. McKendrick; from Port Said, for Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. McCormick; from Bombay, Col. Sir W. Bisset; from Singapore, for Shanghai, Mr. Burgess; from Brindisi, Messrs. A. Henderson, W. Reid; from Colombo, Mr. and Mrs. Storey; from Bombay, Mr. C. W. Banks; from Singapore, for Hongkong, Mr. and Mrs. Ellis, Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Nansen and child, Mr. and Mrs. Morrison, Messrs. Thorne, A. W. Jamieson, F. G. Curtis, H. S. Kip, W. R. Kip, G. B. Kip, E. Daliato and T. M. Perpetuo; from Brindisi, Mr. H. B. Isherwood; from Sydney, Mrs. McCabe, Misses McCabe, and Mr. F. P. McCabe.

Per *Taishun*, from Shanghai, Messrs. White-law, Blake and Brun.

Per *Arratoon Apcar*, from Calcutta, &c., Sir Robert and Lady Harvey, Rev. and Mrs. Jackson, Mrs. Fey, Mrs. Barker, Mrs. Watts, Misses Jamieson, Grant and Kerr.

Per *Canton*, for London, from Yokohama, Lieut. Green; from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Oxley and nurse, Miss Muriel Oxley, Miss Reading, Masters Walter Oxley, Henry Oxley and Allan Oxley; for Colombo, Mrs. Taylor and child.

Per *Rubi*, from Iloilo, &c., Mr. and Mrs. Lawt r, Mr. and Mrs. Coddington, Mrs. and Misses Beltran de Lis, Mrs. E. R. Greene, Mrs. C. B. Smith, Mrs. E. Bell, Mrs. Ladd and two children, Mrs. A. C. Mirkley, Mrs. N. A. Smith, Mrs. F. H. Albright, Mrs. M. E. Mitchell and child, Misses K. Smith, A. G. Neale, E. Parker, N. V. Stenson and D. H. Colton, Lt.-Com. J. G. Knapp, U.S.N., and wife, Messrs. J. Charlesworth, S. Basa, H. H. Bell, D. E. Stone, M. Asensio, J. H. Knapp and Jap Sisco.

Per *Bayern*, for Hongkong, from Shanghai, Mrs. Stockwall and son, Mr. and Mrs. Diederichsen, Miss Cameron, Dr. D. Parr, Messrs. H. Borner, Handelsmann, C. Wittmuss, W. Einstmann and Hunt; for Singapore, from Shanghai, Mr. Ehrlich; for Colombo, from Shanghai, Mr. Bells Natoli; for Naples, from Kobe, Misses Aldrich and Wood; for Genoa, from Shanghai, Messrs. A. Becker, F. Bell, Pfeiffer and family and Craster; from Yokohama, Misses Palmer,

Zittelmann, and Ohly, Messrs. Mutschall, Le Crecht, L. Vincarl, P. Stuhlen, and Neikes; from Kobe, Mr. Loheyde; from Nagasaki, Mr. Wulff; for Hamburg, from Shanghai, Mrs. Borner and three children, Messrs. Nietsch, Buttner, and Capt. Metzger; from Yokohama, Miss F. Bleeker, Messrs. E. Brandes and Milenz; for London, from Shanghai, Mrs. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Gould and child, Mr. and Mrs. N. Lawton, Mrs. Macrae and two children, Misses P. Price and L. Moutrie, and Capt. Lawrence; from Yokohama, Messrs. E. Contis and O. Easton; from Nagasaki, Mrs. Fuller and son and Miss Nottidge.

Per *König Albert*, for Hongkong, from Southampton, Mrs. Packham, Mrs. Todd's children, Messrs. Flankey, Mackintosh, Crapnell, Arnold, Rutherford, Macdonald, Goodwin, and Plage; from Genoa, Mr. and Mrs. Todd, Misses Panby and Muusey, Messrs. Moscon and Fasch; from Colombo, Mr. and Mrs. E. mer, Mrs. Duranow, and Mr. Sanson; from Penang, Capt. and Mrs. Mix, Mr. and Mrs. Mathews, Miss Hater, Messrs. Stach and Mason; from Singapore, Mr., Mrs. and Miss de Silva, Mrs. Witeschka, Mrs. Otoyah, Messrs. Macanlay, Materu, and Mishida.

Per *Hongwan I*, from Straits, Mrs. Pentney, Messrs. Cornelius and Harrison.

Per *Kumano Maru*, from Yokohama, for Hongkong, Mrs. K. Mori, Miss Rachel Serper, Messrs. Emerson and K. Nakamura; for Brisbane, Mr. and Mrs. J. Arthur, Misses V. Arthur, T. Arthur, and Thynne and Mr. A. Hoskins; for Sydney, Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Tottenham, Mr. and Mrs. Fujii, Messrs. A. Faill, Thornhill, and A. Peel; for Melbourne, Mr. H. Turlon.

Per *Leiching*, from Coast Ports, Mr. and Mrs. Miller, Messrs. Butcher, Hobden and Cumming.

Per *Taiyuan*, from Manila, Mr. and Mrs. Hirsch, Mr. and Misses Clothier, Revs. L. M. Burke, F. Marin and M. Layniz, Messrs. Mitchell, Dadze, Glausur, and Madrigal.

Per *Hakata Maru*, from Shanghai, for Hongkong, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Dréw and infant, Miss Sayer, Mrs. I. Kato, and Mr. G. Sand; for Singapore, Mrs. W. Tsutada, Messrs. E. Martin and S. Ando; for Melbourne, Miss Newbury; for Marseilles, Capt. and Mrs. John Lowe, Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Torkington, Mr. and Mrs. F. T. Pray, Dr. T. Takabatake, Messrs. A. Kruse and G. Tsuda; for London, Mrs. H. C. Allen and two children, Mr. and Mrs. Aires and three children, Messrs. A. Rankin, J. A. Davison and B. Ide.

DEPARTED.

Per *Inaba Maru*, for Japan, Lady Pearson, Mr. and Mrs. Stuyvesant, Mrs. and Miss Jenkins, Mr. and Mrs. Currey, Misses Arnold, Bremier, Miller (2), Emerson, Keely, Josephine Byer, Capt. Emerson and Anderson, Dr. McKim, Messrs. Kennedy, B. E. O. Bird, H. E. Spivey, C. H. Wailey, Matsumura, Ando, Midzutan, Ernest Kemp, Boyle, Cutting, B. F. Hamersley, G. A. Wills, and H. Kusakabe.

Per *Yavata Maru*, from Hongkong, for Nagasaki, &c. Lt. and Mrs. J. Sloan and infant, Mr. and Mrs. Gabriell, Mr. and Mrs. Zamora, Mr. and Mrs. Wada, Mr. and Mrs. Marcovich, Mrs. Theomin, Mrs. Cox, Mrs. A. Sugden, Mrs. Heacock, Mrs. Rodgers, Mrs. C. Komine, Mrs. Takai, Mrs. Miura, Mrs. Ishikawa, Mrs. Guason, and Mrs. Kybono, Misses Kirk Myers, Theomin, Graham, Cox (2), Peacock (2), McElhone, Lee Steere, A. and T. Paterno, and Batista, Messrs. Copper (2), Kirk Myers, Burges, Dupre, Purnell, Theomin, Tanaka, Mishikawa, Johnston, Fitzgerald, McElhone, B. Dalchow, Hockson, Malien, McDowell, Leeds, Evans, Young, Fraveholz, Sugiyama, Singleton, Jose, Ishikawa, Hiramota, and H. Yamada.

Per *Oriental*, from Hongkong, for Colombo, Mrs. Benton and Miss Cruickshank; for Marseilles, Mrs. Peter, Mrs. Simpson, Mr. and Mrs. Monro, Misses Fletcher, Leslie and Robinson and Mr. F. Leghezza; for London, Sergt. and Mrs. Langley and three children, Mrs. France and two children, Mr. and Mrs. J. Wheeler and three children, Mr. and Mrs. H. Humphreys and child, Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Richardson and two children, Mrs. Scott and two children, Surg. Clerk Crombie, R.E., Mrs. Crombie and two children, Eng. Clerk Smith, R.E., Mrs. Smith and child, Q.M.S. and Mrs. Wallace and child, Sergt. Major Marsh, R.E., Mrs. Marsh and

three children, Mr. and Mrs. C. M. S. Jones and infant, Sergeants Gordon, McDonald and Sim, Inspector Collett and child, Lance-Sergeants Lander and Grant, Right Rev. Bishop Hoare and four children, Rev. E. L. Cowan, R.N., Messrs. D'Azevedo, D'Azevedo, Jr., J. Harvie, W. Hart, T. Mackay, J. Coils, J. Bailey, R.N., P. A. Cox, J. H. Jenn, R.N., and W. Macbean; from Shanghai, for London, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Wilson and child, Mrs. Macfarlane and child, Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Maitland, Mr. and Mrs. T. Weir and Misses Weir (3), Mrs. Stott, Mrs. Crawford, Mr. and Mrs. Whistler and three children, Mr. and Mrs. Knox and four children, Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Hollander and child, Misses Cromarty, Rickerby, L. Smith, and L. Kay, Messrs. F. F. Wandel, McCallum, J. Chatham, C. S. Atkinson, T. Simpson and C. H. Fraser.

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